

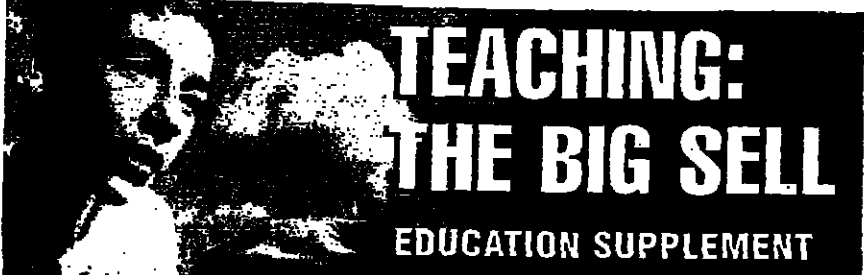


THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,873

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 1999

*(IR50p) 45p



More blood in Ulster as Trimble and Adams stonewall over peace

AS NORTHERN Ireland's leaders clashed verbally in Washington DC yesterday over arms decommissioning, blood was once again spilt on the streets of Belfast as a leading loyalist figure was gunned down.

His death, in the tough Protestant Shankill Road area of the city, momentarily looked like a spasm of republican retaliation for this week's loyalist assassination of the nationalist solicitor Rosemary Nelson in Co Armagh.

Within hours, however, it emerged that he had been shot by fellow denizens of the loyalist paramilitary underworld.

It was reported that he had fallen out with former colleagues, possibly because he was too militant or possibly

By DAVID MCKITTERICK
Ireland Correspondent
AND ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

to help broker a solution to the impasse over the new Northern Ireland executive, which is deadlocked over the question of whether or not Sinn Féin can join without IRA arms decommissioning.

"It is not a question of whether, but a question of when," said David Trimble, the first minister-designate.

The Ulster Unionist Party leader insisted that without a first step on disarmament, Sinn Féin cannot join the executive. If there was pressure from outside for the executive to go ahead without decommissioning, "it won't last the day," he said. Mr Trimble called for Protestant paramilitaries to take the first step towards decommissioning.

But Gerry Adams was equally clear that the Good Friday Agreement did not require such a step. "The President knows as well as Mr Trimble that IRA decommissioning is not a precondition for Sinn Féin to hold ministerial office," the Sinn Féin leader said.

Brushing aside Mr Trimble's concerns, Mr Adams said: "The demands he is making of me? I can't deliver those. He knows that. You know that. Everybody knows that."

A further postponement for the new Assembly beyond the 2 April deadline would be impossible, he added. "The British have already moved this deadline so many times they can't move it again."

But behind-the-scenes discussions have been going on about a possible formula to get around the problem. "The art of politics is to try and find the possible," the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, said.

The President was expected to tell Mr Adams and Mr Trimble that they must both yield ground. But there is suspicion and antagonism on both sides, and both believe that the other is stonewalling for their own advantage. Mr Ahern, Mr Adams and Mr Trimble, along with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, were at a St Patrick's Day dinner for the American-Ireland Fund in Washington on Tuesday night, and another vast party was to be held on the White House lawn last night. Mr Adams and Mr Trimble were also due to meet yesterday as part of the frenetic round of overlapping policy discussions and social events that mark the celebration of St Patrick's Day in the United States capital.



US President Bill Clinton (centre) and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern (right), leaving the Capitol after yesterday's St Patrick's day lunch in Washington. Doug Mills

because they believed he had killed another loyalist figure.

The fact that he had been killed by loyalists rather than republicans caused an immediate easing in a build-up of tension caused by visions of a new tit-for-tat shooting war.

But the situation in both the political world and the paramilitary sphere is still regarded as highly volatile and unpredictable.

One small but violent group, the Red Hand Defenders, swore to take revenge on the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which they blamed for the killing. The Red Hand Defenders have claimed that they killed Rosemary Nelson.

As preparations went on for today's funeral of the solicitor, nationalist and Unionist leaders attacked each other verbally in Washington, where they were due to meet President Bill Clinton. The White House is hoping

for the American-Ireland Fund in Washington on Tuesday night, and another vast party was to be held on the White House lawn last night. Mr Adams and Mr Trimble were also due to meet yesterday as part of the frenetic round of overlapping policy discussions and social events that mark the celebration of St Patrick's Day in the United States capital.

The man killed in Belfast was Frankie Curry, a leading figure in loyalist paramilitary circles for two decades. He was shot by three men on waste ground around lunchtime. He met his death at almost the exact spot where his uncle, Guspy Spence, shot dead a Catholic man in one of the first UVF killings in 1966. Yesterday the Red Hand De-

fenders said the UVF had killed Frankie Curry. The dead man had been within the loyalist paramilitary mainstream until a few years ago, when he was said to have linked up with the renegade Billy Wright, known as "King Rat." When Wright's organisation declared a ceasefire, Curry was reported to have moved on to support other still-active or-

ganisation such as the RHD. Although the RHD yesterday threatened several senior loyalists by name, it claimed Curry was not one of their members. It remains to be seen whether the RHD will have the capacity to take on the UVF, which is much larger and far better armed. Killers try to wreck peace, page 2

Blair says no to big pay-off for Santer

A MOVE to block severance payments of up to £200,000 each for Jacques Santer and other disgraced members of the European Commission was launched by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Mr Santer finally bowed to the inevitable and promised to stand down as the Commission's president following the scathing criticism of fraud and mismanagement in an official inquiry. But the beleaguered Commission ran into further controversy when it emerged that members who lose their jobs could qualify for payoffs of between £200,000 and £300,000.

Tony Blair told the House of Commons yesterday: "In respect to the payoffs, of

course, if someone is guilty of fraud or misconduct, those will not apply." However, there was scepticism in Brussels about whether Mr Blair's move would succeed. Some sources suggested that the commissioners would be entitled to severance payments because there was no evidence they had personally benefited from fraud.

Edith Cresson, the French commissioner criticised by the inquiry, would be entitled to around £72,000 a year for three years, plus a permanent pension of about £30,000 a year.

Mr Blair's spokesman insisted that huge payoffs

would look "odd", adding: "If people leave under a cloud with fraud in the air, we would want to make sure that was looked at properly."

Ministers revealed last night that Mr Blair's plans for sweeping reforms of the Commission could include beefing up the Council of Ministers from the European Union's member states. Under Mr Blair's blueprint, each country might nominate a "minister for Europe" to monitor the Commission's work.

After meeting the 19 members of his team in Brussels yesterday, Mr Santer abandoned his efforts to cling to his post until his five-year term of office ends in December. The Commission agreed to stop all



Jacques Santer: Finally promised to stand down

IOC expels six over bribes

IN ONE of the most dramatic days in the 106-year history of the modern Olympics, its ruling body, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), expelled six members accused of corruption at an extraordinary general meeting in Lausanne yesterday.

The expulsions followed the allegations of payments of bribes and gifts worth hundreds of thousands of pounds that have rocked the Olympic movement since the end of last year. Each of the six IOC members was accused of receiving money or favours from the Salt Lake City bidding committee that was awarded the 2002 winter Games.

Those expelled were Congo's Jean-Claude Ganga, Ecuador's Agustín Arroyo, Zain El Abdin A Gadir of Sudan,

Lamine Keita of Mali, Chile's Sergio Santander Fariña and Samoa's Paul Wallwork. The case of South Korea's Un Yong Kim remains unresolved.

After the meeting, attended by 90 IOC members, the vice-president, Dick Pound, who headed the inquiry into the allegations, said: "We are at the end of a new beginning. Justice has been done." He said the movement was now putting into place a number of reforms.

The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, whose position has seemed precarious, won an overwhelming vote of confidence in a secret ballot at the start of the meeting. Samaranch escapes, page 6

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From the edge of the New World,
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'For all we knew, Holyfield spent the whole night pinging Lewis's nose with an elastic band'

MARK STEEL CATCHES THE BIG FIGHT, LIVE ON THE RADIO IN THE BAGEL SHOP

THE BEST WRITING WEEK IN: WEEK OF T. DILBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SU SANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINEY, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITZ, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCHIFF, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Blair vows to hunt down Nelson killers

THE PRIME MINISTER vowed yesterday that no stone would be left unturned in the hunt for the murderers of the Northern Ireland lawyer Rosemary Nelson.

At Commons question time, Mr Blair said the killers were "not loyal to anything other than their own bigotry and prejudice, and that is not a loyalty shared by any sensible member of the United Kingdom".

He said the killers were "trying to wreck the hopes of peace for the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland".

He spoke as the Chief Constable of Kent was due to arrive in Ulster to begin his investigation into the brutal murder. David Phillips was asked to lead the sensitive inquiry after the Chief Constable of the RUC, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, said he wanted the investigation to be transparent and seen to be so. Mr Phillips will oversee the investigation, in which the FBI is also being given a role.

Sir Ronnie said he thought it important for the Nelson family to know that "not only will this investigation be meticulous, but that it will be transparently obvious to them and the watching world as such". The decision to bring the FBI into the Nelson investigation

BY ANDREW MARSHALL AND COLIN BROWN

follows long-standing police links between Dublin, Belfast and Washington. Sir Ronnie initiated the idea soon after Mrs Nelson's death, and he discussed it very early the next morning with Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who had just arrived in Washington.

It was prompted by the personal friendship between Sir Ronnie, the Garda Commissioner Pat Byrne and the FBI director Louis Freeh. Both Sir Ronnie and Mr Byrne attended the FBI's National Academy, an 11-week training programme for police managers from the US and around the world, and its National Executive Institute. Policemen from the RUC and the Garda Síochána also attended a special training programme earlier this year at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The FBI would not comment on its role in the Nelson investigation yesterday. British officials said it was much too early to say what assistance the FBI might provide.

A group called the Red Hand Defenders has claimed re-

sponsibility for the car bomb which killed Mrs Nelson, leaving her husband and three children devastated.

Her two sons were brought home early from a school skiing trip in France to be with their father and sister for today's requiem mass at St Peter's Church, Lurgan, followed by a cremation at Roselawn, East Belfast.

Vigils for Mrs Nelson were held last night in Lurgan, Londonderry and Armagh, and more vigils and demonstrations are planned. Meanwhile, the RUC has issued a fresh appeal for information about the murder.

Mrs Nelson's murder and yesterday's shooting of the loyalist paramilitary Frankie Curry heightened anxiety at Westminster over the peace process and the 29 March deadline for making progress on the Northern Ireland assembly.

Some senior politicians are privately convinced that the peace process will collapse. "It's deadlocked and is falling apart," said one Ulster Unionist MP.

But those close to Mo Mowlam said she was sticking by her call for strong nerves in the run-up to the deadline.



A girl helping her friend to put the finishing touches on her make up yesterday as they prepare to take part in the parade which was the highlight of the five day St Patrick's festival in Dublin. *Ferran Bredes/Reuters*

Low-tar brands mislead smokers

BY EILEEN MURPHY

MILLIONS OF smokers are being deceived into thinking that low-tar cigarettes are less harmful than other brands, according to a report published yesterday.

The Health Education Authority (HEA) found that smokers were being misled by the way in which low-tar cigarettes were packaged and promoted. It has called for the use of terms such as "light", "ultra" and "mild" to be banned.

The HEA, which estimates there are between three and four million people in England smoking light cigarettes, also wants tobacco companies to be forced to disclose all cigarette ingredients and additives.

This follows recent research which suggested that low-tar cigarettes were no less harmful than regular cigarettes, producing tar and nicotine levels far higher than those printed on the packet. One study found no difference in lung-cancer rates between those who smoked high-tar cigarettes and those who smoked low-tar brands.

The HEA survey found that more than one in four (28 per cent) of smokers thought low-tar cigarettes were less harmful than regular brands, with the young most likely to think this.

Steve Woodward, smoking campaign manager of the HEA, said: "Smokers are being duped into believing that low-tar cigarettes are somehow better for them by advertising and packaging. People often change the way they inhale when they smoke low-tar brands - they take deeper drags or more puffs in order to get more nicotine. In doing this they also get higher levels of tar and tobacco companies have known this for years."

The level of tar in a cigarette is measured in a machine but people don't smoke like machines. The way people actually smoke them can turn so-called low-tar cigarettes into normal strength cigarettes.

Straw wants anti-racism lessons in all-white schools

AN ATTEMPT to introduce anti-racism programmes to schools in all-white areas was announced by Home Secretary Jack Straw yesterday when he addressed a race seminar of young people.

At the meeting in the House of Commons, Mr Straw said much of the progress on race relations stemmed from the

BY BOB ROBERTS

anti-racism work of inner-city education authorities 15 to 20 years ago.

He said: "They were really criticised for this. They were told it was political correctness. They were told they were being the thought police and all the rest of it."

"Now it is regarded as received wisdom. What we have got to do is make sure that it is rolled out in other areas, particularly white-only areas where we can get some serious racial stereotyping."

Mr Straw told the audience of young people that it was time to stop seeing race issues as a modern problem and

start celebrating Britain's multi-cultural society.

"A hundred years ago there was in many ways worse discrimination, for example, against Jews and the Irish than there is today against black and Asian people," said Mr Straw.

"Many black and Asian people I speak to say what really

cheeses them off is being regarded as a problem.

"What we have got to start doing is celebrating the fact that Britain has become a great society because it has always been a melting pot for people of different races and religions going right back to the Romans."

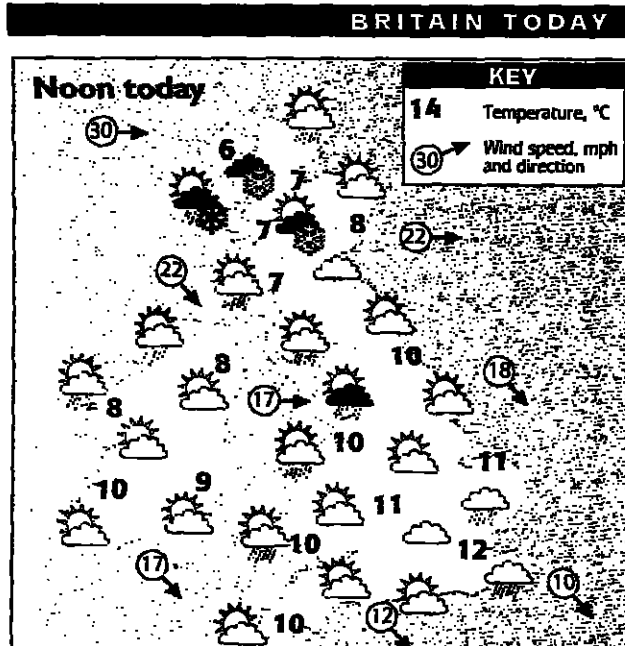
Facing questions from the

audience, Mr Straw clashed with one student over whether he should have sacked Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon after the inquiry report into the handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation.

Mr Straw said the inquiry team had not called for his

sacking. The commissioner had accepted there was institutional racism in the force and Sir Paul had put in place a programme "for securing change".

But Yasmine Amevor, 17, from Acland Burghley High School in Camden, London, said: "He should go and he should have gone already."



FORECAST
General situation South-coast England and East Angles will start cloudy with rain, clearing to leave some sun. It will turn cooler with showers returning this afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will also be cooler than recently with a mix of sunny spells and showers. Northern Ireland and Western Scotland will also have showers. It will turn increasingly windy and as the showers turn increasingly wintry, there will be blizzards across the Highlands. Eastern Scotland will escape mostly dry with better sunny spells.

London, SE & East of England, E Angles, E Midlands, E England: A cloudy start with patchy light rain clearing to leave a cooler and brighter afternoon with isolated showers. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 11-13°C (52-55°F). Wales, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny spells but cool with showers breaking out. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12°C (48-54°F).

Channel Is, SW England: Cooler than recently with isolated showers, but some sunshine in between. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 10-12°C (50-54°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Colder than recently with the odd shower and some sun. A freshening westerly wind. Max temp 7-9°C (45-48°F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W & N Isles: Sunny breaks but showery and windy. A fresh to strong westerly wind. Max temp 8-9°C (46-48°F).

N Ireland: Cool and breezy with showers and sunny spells. A fresh west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 8-10°C (46-50°F).

OUTLOOK

Tomorrow will remain cool with further sunny spells and showers, these increasingly of sleet and snow in Scotland. The north will have rain on Saturday but the south will stay drier and brighter.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and closures. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J24 Threlkirk Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Threlkirk Viaduct (A6170). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd,

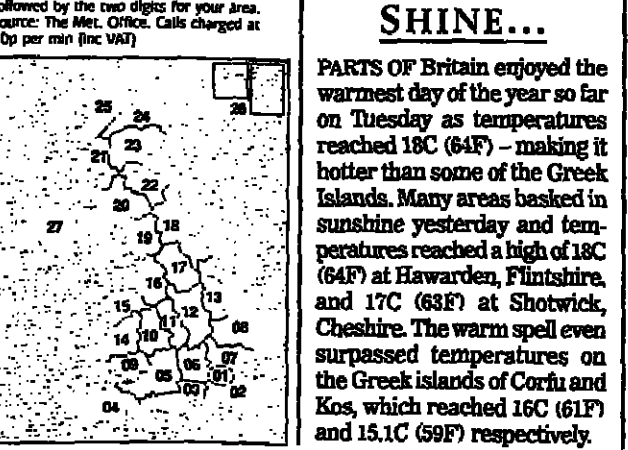
LIGHTING UP			
Belfast	6.32pm to 6.30am		
Birmingham	6.16pm to 6.14am		
Bristol	6.39pm to 6.17am		
Glasgow	6.26pm to 6.23am		
London	6.10pm to 6.07am		
Manchester	6.16pm to 6.13am		
Newcastle	6.15pm to 6.13am		

HIGH TIDES			
	AM	HT	PM
Amurmouth	7.36	13.9	7.57
Cardiff	5.52	4.6	6.11
Cardport	6.04	5.7	6.27
Dover	11.18	6.8	11.41
East Lothian	11.42	4.1	6.9
Falmouth	5.35	5.5	5.54
Greenock	12.48	3.2	1.10
Hull	12.00	4.0	12.26
Hull (Albert Dk)	6.40	8.8	6.48
Shannon	6.40	7.1	6.48
Leith	2.52	5.7	3.06
Liverpool	11.37	9.9	11.59
Millford Haven	6.33	7.3	6.54
Newquay	5.24	7.3	5.45
Portland	7.36	2.2	8.07
Portsmouth	11.36	4.7	11.57
Swansea	8.23	5.3	8.45
Scarborough	4.24	5.7	4.33
Wick	11.39	5.7	4.33

AIR QUALITY			
Today's readings			
	NO _x	Moderate	SO ₂
London	Good	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON			
Sun rises	06.09		
Sun sets	18.10		
Moon rises	05.46		
Moon sets	19.05		
First quarter	March 24		

WEATHERLINE			
For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5699 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Call charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).			



YESTERDAY			
Winnipeg	London 20C (68F)		
Cold	(day) Lurgan 9C (48F)		
Winnipeg	Skye 2.0 mm		
Winnipeg	Battle 10.4 hrs		
For 24hrs to 2pm Wednesday			
	Sun	Rain	Max
	hrs	mm	°C
Aberdeen	0	5.3	14
Anglesey	3.8	0.5	11
Armagh	1.7	0.3	13
Belfast	3.3	2.0	15
Birmingham	7.5	0	15
Bournemouth	9.5	0	14
Bristol	4.6	0.3	13
Bunbeg	0.4	0.1	13
Cardiff	3.3	0	13
Cardport	10.0	0	13
Carmarthen	3.2	0.3	13
Cromer	0.7	0.8	15
Edinburgh	5.6	0	14
Enniskillen	4.6	0.3	12
Falkirk	10.4	0	12
Falkirkstone	10.4	0	12
Glasgow	10.0	0	12
Greenwich	10.0	0	12
Hull	8.1	0	11
Isle of Man	4.5	3.3	12
Jersey	10.2	0.3	13
Kendal	2.6	0	11
Leeds	1.3	3.1	15
Liverpool	0	9.7	9
Liverpool	9.7	0	13
London	6.3	0	16
Lowestoft	6.3	0	16
Manchester	1.1	0.5	16
Marazion	2.2	1.5	12
Morecambe	2.2	1.5	12
Newquay	6.0	2.8	13
Norwich	4.8	0.3	14
Oxford	3.8	0	15
Portsmouth	8.3	0	16
Scarborough	0.5	0.3	14
Shrewsbury	6.1	0.3	16
Southport	0	16.8	12
Stranraer	9.3	0	13
Swansea	2.9	0	11
Torquay	5.8	0	12
Weymouth	5.8	0	12
Weymouth	5.8	0	12

THE WORLD			
EUROPE NOON TODAY			
	Temp	Wind	Dir
Amurmouth	14	10	SW
Cardiff	11	10	SW
Cardport	11	10	SW
Dover	11	10	SW
East Lothian	11	10	SW
Falmouth	11	10	SW
Greenock	11	10	SW
Hull	11	10	SW
Hull (Albert Dk)	11	10	SW
Shannon	11	10	SW
Leith	11	10	SW
Liverpool	11	10	SW
Millford Haven	11	10	SW
Newquay	11	10	SW
Portland	11	10	SW
Portsmouth	11	10	SW
Swansea	11	10	SW
Scarborough	11	10	SW
Wick	11	10	SW

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY			
	Temp	Wind	Dir
Amurmouth	14	10	SW
Cardiff	11	10	SW
Cardport	11	10	SW
Dover	11	10	SW
East Lothian	11	10	SW
Falmouth	11	10	SW
Greenock	11	10	SW
Hull	11	10	SW
Hull (Albert Dk)	11	10	SW
Shannon	11	10	SW
Leith	11	10	SW
Liverpool	11	10	SW
Millford Haven	11	10	SW
Newquay	11	10	SW
Portland	11	10	SW
Portsmouth	11	10	SW
Swansea	11	10	SW
Scarborough	11	10	SW
Wick	11	10	SW

THE WORLD YESTERDAY			
	Temp	Wind	Dir
Amurmouth	14	10	SW
Cardiff	11	10	SW
Cardport	11	10	SW
Dover	11	10	SW
East Lothian	11	10	SW
Falmouth	11	10	SW
Greenock	11	10	SW
Hull	11	10	SW
Hull (Albert Dk)	11	10	SW
Shannon	11	10	SW
Leith	11	10	SW
Liverpool	11	10	SW
Millford Haven	11	10	SW
Newquay	11	10	SW
Portland	11	10	SW
Portsmouth	11	10	SW
Swansea	11	10	SW
Scarborough	11	10	SW
Wick	11	10	SW

RAIN OR SHINE...			
PARTS OF Britain enjoyed the warmest day of the year so far on Tuesday as temperatures reached 18C (64F) - making it hotter than some of the Greek Islands. Many areas basked in sunshine yesterday and temperatures reached a high of 18C (64F) at Hawarden, Flintshire, and 17C (63F) at Shotwick, Cheshire. The warm spell even surpassed temperatures on the Greek islands of Corfu and Kos, which reached 16C (61F) and 15.1C (59F) respectively.			

THE WORLD YESTERDAY			
	Temp	Wind	Dir
Amurmouth	14	10	SW
Cardiff	11	10	SW
Cardport	11	10	SW
Dover	11	10	SW
East Lothian	11	10	SW
Falmouth	11	10	SW
Greenock	11	10	SW
Hull	11	10	SW
Hull (Albert Dk)	11	10	SW
Shannon	11	10	SW
Leith	11	10	SW
Liverpool	11	10	SW
Millford Haven	11	10	SW
Newquay	11	10	SW
Portland	11	10	SW
Portsmouth	11	10	SW
Swansea	11	10	SW
Scarborough	11	10	SW
Wick	11	10	SW

Parking rage sets neighbours at war

THE STRESS of using an overcrowded and underfunded transport network has spawned another modern social phenomenon - parking rage.

More than eight in 10 motorists admit they see red when they find a car parked across their driveways, according to a survey published yesterday. The same number would insist that a neighbour who blocked their entrance shift the offending vehicle immediately.

Autoglass, the windscreen repair company that carried out the survey, found that men were more likely than women to retaliate for bad parking, call the police or escalate the dispute.

BY PHILIP THORNTON

Transport Correspondent

"Neighbours are at war over parking. The tensions of everyday motoring have spread to the driveway," said a spokesman.

"People display very territorial attitudes to their personal parking space, using traffic cones and rubbish bins to reserve a space. The risk of a row arises when there isn't a real need to move a car and the dispute becomes a matter of pride."

Parking rage is the latest expression of frustration at modern

MUSIC
LOUD, SOFT, LOUD
SOFT, LOUD...
BEN THOMPSON
MEETS MOGWAI
PLUS SCIENCE

Low-tar brands mislead smokers

BY LEEAN MURPHY

MILLIONS OF smokers a week are misled into thinking that low-tar cigarettes are less harmful than others, according to a report published by the Health Education Authority (HEA).

The HEA found that low-tar cigarettes are not as safe as they are made out to be. The report says that low-tar cigarettes are often smoked more deeply, leading to the same amount of tar and nicotine being inhaled as from a standard cigarette.

The HEA also found that low-tar cigarettes are often smoked more frequently, leading to the same amount of tar and nicotine being inhaled as from a standard cigarette.

Downfall of the preacher who took Paul Simon's conscience for a ride

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Johannesburg

THEY WERE two distinct voices against apartheid - Allan Boesak, the high-pitched, high-living priest, and Paul Simon, the pop star with a conscience and velvet vocal chords. Both of them might say they were misunderstood.

Yesterday in Cape Town, Boesak was found guilty of willfully and unlawfully stealing more than £100,000 from a charity that he set up with Mr Simon's help. The money had been allocated to help child victims of apartheid in the 1980s, the darkest days of the struggle.

In a 108-page judgment, Judge John Foxcroft found the former Calvinist minister, 53, guilty on four counts of fraud of £1.3 million rand, worth £275,000 at the time and £190,000 today, owing to the rand's fall in value. He acquitted him on 23 other charges.

Judge Foxcroft said Boesak, who received R682,000 from Mr Simon after the singer's 1987 Graceland tour, had "treated the money as his own". He said that Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice (FPJ) had passed on only R223,000 to the Children's Trust, of which the charismatic former cleric was a trustee, along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Just as Mr Simon, the one-time musical collaborator of Art Garfunkel, felt misunderstood when he was accused of reaching United Nations sanctions against South Africa with his Graceland project in 1986, Boesak failed to bridge his own troubled waters.

world disagreed and Mr Simon came up against protests for several years afterwards.

As former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Boesak learnt to lead a double life. Alongside his public work with the FPJ, he also began to indulge a most unprestigious taste for the good life.

Only his powerful friends saved him from disgrace earlier on. While still a clergyman in the 1970s, he was found in breach of the apartheid-era Immorality Act for conducting a love affair outside his marriage, with a youth official of the South African Council of Churches. On that occasion he managed to retain his church post. A second affair, with his present wife, Elina Botha, led to his losing his ministry in the Church.

Judge Foxcroft said that Boesak had taken some of the money from the foundation to pay off Ms Botha's debts. Other money went on buying houses in smart white areas of the Cape and on taking his family to Disneyland. The judge said that donors and trustees had been fooled by Boesak's "larger-than-life personality" and by his international reputation.

But his were the proverbial feet of clay. After the years of struggle, Boesak was appointed leader of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the Western Cape. But he proved an unsuccessful politician.

The Western Cape was the one area in South Africa where the ANC failed to win a majority in the country's first all-race elections in 1994. Instead, the region remained under the control of the former ruling National Party. Disappointed, President Nelson Mandela, a personal friend, offered Boesak the post of ambassador to the United Nations the following year.

By then the trustees of the FPJ had reported him to the police and he declined to accept the post. Still, Archbishop Tutu and many prominent human

rights activists spoke up for Boesak, refusing to believe the charges levelled against him. The ANC organised its own inquiry, which cleared him. The foundation's foreign donors insisted on taking him to court.

In 1997, his bookkeeper, Freddie Steenkamp, 41, pleaded guilty to stealing R900,000 from the FPJ and was jailed for six years. Boesak, who will be sentenced next week, had pleaded not guilty to 20 counts of theft and 12 counts of fraud. He faces an unspecified fine or prison sentence.

The story of Boesak's rise to prominence in the anti-apartheid movement had an almost Biblical quality. Born in 1945 in the Northern Cape to a mixed-race family, his hatred of racism was stirred when his family was forced to move from their home by the notorious Group Areas Act, which banned blacks and mixed-race "coloureds" from living in areas designated for whites.

In the early 1980s he gained fame by sponsoring a resolution declaring apartheid a religious heresy at an assembly of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Ottawa in Canada. The move was a great success and after the motion was passed he was elected president of the organisation.

Soon, Boesak was at the forefront of the formation of the United Democratic Front - the grouping of civil society organisations which fought the white state until the ANC was



Boesak, with his wife, Elina, leaving court after he was convicted of misappropriating funds from a charity for children Mike Hutchings



Paul Simon during his Graceland tour David Sandison

Michael Jackson takes the rock stars' guilt trip

BY PAUL MCCANN AND ALEX DUVAL SMITH

OVER THE past 15 years a string of rock stars have tried to engage with Africa's disaster zones, with varying degrees of success. The latest is Michael Jackson, who is negotiating to donate up to £75m to create four African universities, which would be named after him.

Jackson, who was in South Africa earlier this week to buy a £40m share in the Sun City casino resort, already has investments in Namibia, a sparsely populated country with a growing tourism industry. During a visit there in May last year, the singer announced a scheme to build casinos in the north of the country. Jackson's plan for the universities - in Tunisia, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa - is being negotiated with a consortium led by Malaysian entrepreneur, Abdul Rahman, and was first reported in The Independent on Sunday last month.

It may be down to the size of Africa's real need for help, or perhaps it is because of rock

star guilt about making so much money with an art form which originated in Africa, but Africa's only competition as a target for rock star largesse has been AIDS research.

The biggest charity event in history was aimed at raising money for Africa and was run by a dishevelled rock star. Bob

Geldof's Band Aid record and Live Aid event raised over £120m from a public shocked by the images coming from the famine in Ethiopia.

At the height of the greedy Eighties, Live Aid managed to reconnect some rock stars with their consciences and generated a million more charity tours and concerts. From Greenpeace to Amnesty International, from freeing Nelson

Mandela to saving Brazilian rainforests, it became hard for some of the world's needy to avoid rock star guilt in the immediate aftermath of Live Aid.

And Africa is at the heart of the latest campaign by stadium rockers to make the world a better place. U2's Bono is fronting the Jubilee 2000 campaign to get the third world debt burden lifted for the new millennium and while Geldof and Live Aid raised £130m in 1985, Bono wants to have the £145m paid by Africa in debt repayments every year lifted by the end of this year.

More modest, but more consistent, rock star giving to Africa is to be found amongst those who have had a long-standing artistic and political connection with the continent.

Peter Gabriel started his long love-in with Africa when his 1980 song "Biko", about murdered South African activist Steve Biko, acquired the status of an anthem for the anti-apartheid movement.



Michael Jackson and Peter Gabriel: Help for Africa



Hills are biggest air-travel risk

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

AIR TRAVELLERS are most likely to die in planes that smash into high ground such as the side of a mountain because of mistakes by pilots or crew, according to a survey.

Research into the 620 fatal air accidents since 1980 has isolated the most likely ways for passengers to meet their death and the most frequent causes. The world-wide study, by the

Civil Aviation Authority, the safety regulator of UK-registered planes and British airspace, found two-thirds of crashes were due to crew error.

At a meeting of UK airline bosses tomorrow the CAA will tell them the seven most likely circumstances behind acci-

dents where passengers are killed. These are, in order of priority:

- Controlled flight into terrain - mainly high ground such as mountains or hillsides;
- Approach and landing accidents - a large number of accidents take place as a plane nears the runway;
- Loss of control - pilot error or a failure of on-board systems;
- Design-related accidents, including failures in plane design;
- Weather-related accidents, including flying into bad weather against advice;
- Occupant safety and survivability - failures in design or defects that prevent passengers leaving aircraft after a crash;
- Mid-air collision, something that has not occurred in UK-controlled airspace.

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OFT inquiry into high car prices

A **INQUIRY** was ordered yesterday into the way new cars are sold in Britain. The competition watchdog claimed manufacturers and dealers distort the market to push up prices.

John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, referred the £24bn industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after finding evidence of anti-competitive practices.

The MMC will look at the huge differences in prices between the UK and the Continent, and the exclusive relationships between car makers and dealers allowed under European competition rules.

Mr Bridgeman criticised the recommended resale price (RRP) mechanism which he said led to higher prices and subsidised inefficient dealers.

He said people were paying too much for their cars because dealers were unable to negotiate discounts for bulk purchases in the same way as fleet managers.

Mr Bridgeman also launched an attack on the industry for its "dilatory and uncooperative" response to his investigation. He warned that from next month he would be able to prosecute anyone who blocked an Office of Fair Trading inquiry.

"It is clear the market isn't working properly and that there is an imbalance of power

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

between manufacturers and dealers which is distorting competition," Mr Bridgeman said.

"This is characterised by suppliers' continued refusal to give volume discounts to dealers which could be passed on to the consumer as lower prices, and by other practices designed to exert a strong influence over selling prices."

"I believe that this, coupled with a general reduction in basic dealer margins and a greater emphasis on discretionary bonuses, is limiting the ability of dealers to offer con-

sumers lower prices."

The MMC should consider whether the practice of RRP's should be outlawed in the same way it was abolished for electrical goods, he said.

The motor industry said it would co-operate fully with the MMC inquiry, saying manufacturers and dealers "had nothing to hide". The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the European market was "highly regulated and competitive" and the industry worked within UK and European rules.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said the Government welcomed the decision. "Hopefully it will lead to a bet-

ter deal for British consumers in line with the approach we intend to take on this."

The Consumers' Association said the "cozy" relationship between manufacturers and dealers produced unjustifiably high prices for UK consumers. "We will show the MMC inquiry our detailed evidence of the scale of the problem as part of our campaign to end the great British rip-off," said its director Sheila McKee.

Retail car dealerships said the inquiry would ease the stranglehold that motor manufacturers had on prices. The National Franchised Dealerships Association said ordinary motorists were being charged more to subsidise fleet car sales.

The MMC's inquiry, which will take nine months, is the second investigation by the commission into the industry in nine years.

Next year the member states of the European Commission start to negotiate the motor industry's block exemption from the competition rules under the Treaty of Rome. The exemption, which was last ratified in 1995, expires in 2002 and MPs say it should not be renewed. Mr Bridgeman's investigation follows a number of surveys showing that many new cars are far cheaper in Europe than they are in the UK.

Outlook, page 21

WHERE TO DRIVE A BARGAIN

Country	Renault Clio 1.2	Ford Fiesta 1.2	BMW 520i
Austria	13,803	10,030	35,172
Belgium	12,115	8,723	31,169
France	12,874	9,590	30,950
Germany	12,638	10,358	29,757
Netherlands	15,378	10,508	37,181
Ireland	16,748	13,631	39,425
Italy	11,483	9,038	31,183
Luxembourg	11,514	8,723	29,375
Portugal	11,389	10,103	38,432
Spain	12,912	8,698	31,517
UK	14,112	10,858	32,201

Sources: European Commission. Prices in £ as at May 1 1998. Converted into euros at rates fixed on January 1. UK floating rate as at 1 January.



Alan Barnes playing as guest musician with the James Watson Trio yesterday at Piazza Express in Soho, London, where the BT British Jazz Awards were being held. Barnes won the alto saxophone category. John Voos

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Tabloids turn tables on Queen Mother

BY KATRY MARKS

SHE IS 99 this year and a national treasure. But no longer is the Queen Mother immune from the criticisms levelled at the rest of her wayward family.

In recent days, there have been rare stern words about the most popular member of the Royal Family from sections of the British media that can normally be relied upon for unstinting support.

It is not the Queen Mother's fondness for a stiff gin or a flutter on the horses that has prompted the volte-face in the tabloid press; nobody minds those endearingly human foibles. It is the revelation that she is, to put it mildly, a hopeless spendthrift.

The Queen Mother is unable to live on her annual income from the Civil List of £643,000. Indeed, she has reportedly run up an overdraft of £4m at Coutts, the royal bank.

This profligacy prompted Richard Littlejohn, a columnist with *The Sun* newspaper, to declare on Tuesday that she was "spending money like it's going out of fashion".

The size of her overdraft was "going a bit, even for a pensioner with a gold card and an account at William Hill", said Mr Littlejohn.

It is not the tone of such criticisms, but the very fact of it that is startling.

This sprightly old lady is the one royal usually regarded as unassailable.

As Judy Wade, the royal correspondent for *Hello!* magazine, put it yesterday: "The Queen Mother is above reproach. You don't attack her."

**Pampered
privileged
and such
an affront
to decency**



The Queen Mother, usually beyond reproach, making tabloid headlines this week because of her overdraft

The one exception - until now - was in the mid-Eighties, when it emerged that she had never visited two of her relatives who were incarcerated in mental institutions.

What triggered this week's outbursts were reports of the lavish lifestyle that is said to be behind the infamous overdraft.

Much of the money goes on wages. The Queen Mother employs 50 staff at Clarence House, her central London home, and is accompanied by a footman, two maids, two chauffeurs and a Metropolitan Police detective whenever she travels.

She is said to entertain in a manner that makes other royal households seem like boarding houses, and she also enjoys dining out at leading London restaurants, including the Connaught and the Ritz.

The Queen Mother owns 10 racehorses and her four homes - Clarence House, Birkhall on the Balmoral estate, the Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park and the Castle of Mey in Scot-

land - are filled with fine furniture and antiques.

In yesterday's *Daily Mail*, the columnist Lynda Lee-Potter condemned what she called the Queen Mother's "grandiose, sybaritic existence" and suggested that she clear the overdraft by selling off some of her valuables. "Other old ladies have to sell their engagement rings, their few bits of jewellery and, in some cases, their houses to pay for their nursing home fees," she said.

According to one report, the Queen recently urged her mother to be a little more frugal. "But I am making economies," replied the Queen Mother, who was staying at the Castle of Mey at the time. "Just look. I haven't replaced the carpets."

As if the press onslaught was not enough of a shock for the Queen Mother, there was more bad news for her yesterday. She was forced to watch as her fiancée, Easter Ross, fell at the second fence at the Cheltenham Festival.

Five arrested in hoax fire call investigation

FIVE PART-TIME firemen were arrested yesterday after an investigation into allegations that firefighters made hoax emergency calls and started blazes to earn extra money.

A police inquiry was set up last month after the fire service received a tip-off that retained officers, who provide weekend and night cover, were creating work so they could claim a £10 call-out fee.

Retained firefighters receive a payment each time they are called out as well as a basic fee, while full-time staff are paid a salary no matter how many calls they answer.

Detectors yesterday questioned five part-time firefighters - all men - from Horwich Fire Station in Greater Man-

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

chester following allegations of fraud. An alleged hoax fire on moorland is reported to be a key part of the inquiry. Police examined records of fire calls as part of their investigations. The fraud allegations span several years.

Horwich station, which deals with just under 900 calls a year, has seven full-time and 12 part-time firefighters.

Fred Walker, chairman of the fire authority, said: "The brigade has done everything in its power to uncover the truth behind these allegations. The result of our own internal investigation were handed over to the police who were also car-

rying out their own investigations.

"These arrests will come as a shock to the people of Horwich who have always had the greatest admiration for their firefighters. We currently have a recruitment drive in the area and hope that this will not deter applicants."

Confirming the arrests, Greater Manchester Fire Officer George Almond said: "This is a very serious matter and I found guilty of any criminal activity, they will be summarily dismissed."

"Meanwhile I would like to assure the people of Horwich that contingency plans have been put in place to ensure that they have adequate fire cover overnight and at the weekend."

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Independence for God's chosen people? There's nowt so queer as Yorkshire folk

BY JOHN DAVISON AND
ESTHER LEACH

IF GOD is a Yorkshireman, as it is generally assumed in that part of the world, then yesterday would have seen him smiling especially benignly on his chosen people.

For some of the more outspoken among them have raised a banner of revolt against southern dominance and are bidding for a measure of independence and home rule. Yorkshire, if these zealots get their way, is to have its own autonomous powers to the planned elected assemblies for Scotland and Wales and for London. In line with the Government's stated policy of devolving more power to the regions, the campaign wants to "assert the right of the people of Yorkshire and the Humber to determine their own domestic affairs".

Headed by local politicians, trade unionists and voluntary organisations, it insists that Yorkshire is the best place for England's first regional assembly because of its strong identity and "undisputed boundaries". It would restore the county to within the old borders of the three Ridings, which existed from before the Domesday Book right up to local government reorganisation in 1974. An assembly would provide an elected balance to the Regional Development Agency which has already been set up, say supporters, and give the county added clout when negotiating with the EU for regional funding.

Launched at the Guildhall in York yesterday with the Archbishop of York, no less, as president, the campaign will put the argument for devolution to the local people and to the Government over the next year. A grant for £25,000 has been given by the Rowntree Foundation, also based in York, to pay for a director to run the campaign full time.

Paul Jagger, the TUC Yorkshire regional secretary who chaired the launch, said: "We have a very clear advantage for doing this in Yorkshire, because there is a very clear economic and cultural sense of



Shoppers yesterday in Pontefract which campaigners want included in a parliament for Yorkshire

Kippa Matthews

Yorkshire. Everyone has heard of famous Yorkshiremen including Michael Parkinson, Dickie Bird and Geoff Boycott."

Mr Parkinson was characteristically blunt yesterday about what he thought of the scheme. "Well it's just a daft idea. What sort of barmy organisation has come up with that?" he said. "I frankly don't care one way or 't'her because it won't make any difference at all."

Alan Bennett, whose monologues have fixed a certain Yorkshire outlook in syrup,



"I frankly don't care one way or 't'her because it won't make any difference at all" - Michael Parkinson



"While we are contemplating joining Europe is not the time to be smaller in mind set" - Maureen Lipman



"I wouldn't support it. Not unless they made me Queen" - Barbara Taylor Bradford

would say "not a word" on the subject. Dickie Bird would not utter one, either.

Maureen Lipman took time out between performances of Aunt Eller in *Oldham!* in London's West End to give an

opinion, and said: "You certainly don't take the Yorkshire out of the girl. I've been here since 1967, but I still list Hull as my birthplace in the programme. And one of my proudest moments of my life was

having a sewage device named after me in Hull," she said.

"But I don't think this would be a good idea. While we are contemplating joining Europe is not the time to be becoming smaller in mind set."

Novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford, another famous Yorkshire daughter but now resident in New York, thought the idea "preposterous", with one exception. "Is this a joke? Yorkshire's a county not a city state," she said. "I wouldn't support it. Not unless they made me Queen."

Leading article, Review, page 3

Teachers' 'friend' quits over inspector

ONE OF the Government's most senior education advisers is to leave his position because of friction with Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

Professor Tim Brighouse, Birmingham's chief education officer, is to give up his post as joint vice-chairman of the Government's standards taskforce after a series of disagreements with Mr Woodhead, the other vice-chairman. His decision means further controversy for Mr Woodhead, whose ex-wife recently alleged he had an affair with a pupil while he was a teacher at a Bristol school. He denies the allegation.

Last night, Professor Brighouse said he wanted to devote more time to Birmingham and raising standards in inner-city schools. He denied he was resigning because of clashes with Mr Woodhead. But sources said he had decided to go because he believed his position alongside Mr Woodhead had become untenable.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, appointed Professor Brighouse and Mr Woodhead to the taskforce soon after the general election. Teachers saw the former as their friend and the latter as their scourge. The two were meant to symbolise the twin policies of "pressure and support" which ministers have placed at the centre of their campaign to raise standards.

But the arrangement was always potentially explosive. When Ofsted inspected Birmingham local education authority, the two fell out over the report amid suggestions Mr Woodhead had inserted some critical passages. Mr Woodhead denied the allegation. Recently, Professor Brighouse gave a lengthy correspondence between the two during the inspection to the Commons Se-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

lect Committee investigating Ofsted. He said he would be happy for it to be made public.

The Commons hearings have emphasised the differences between the two, with Professor Brighouse renewing his criticisms of Ofsted and Mr Woodhead attacking Professor Brighouse at a press briefing earlier this year.

Professor Brighouse said yesterday: "I have said to the secretary of state that at a [convenient] time I would like to withdraw from the standards taskforce. I am also withdrawing from membership of the taskforce on educational development and I have given up being a trustee of Education Extra. I need to devote a lot more time to Birmingham and inner-city education."

"Mr Woodhead and I have disagreed about almost everything but doubtless the disagreement has often proved creative. I'm sure I will continue to press for improvements in the inspection system which are slowly being made but which need to be accelerated."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The success of the taskforce depends on its personnel. The union welcomed the inclusion of Tim Brighouse. His resignation places a question mark over the ability of the taskforce to ensure a balanced analysis of the issues which are of immense significance to teachers and their pupils."

"The stature of Tim Brighouse and the support he gives to teachers in meeting the day-to-day difficulties of their job separates him from the self-chosen role of the chief inspector." Ofsted said it had no comment to make.

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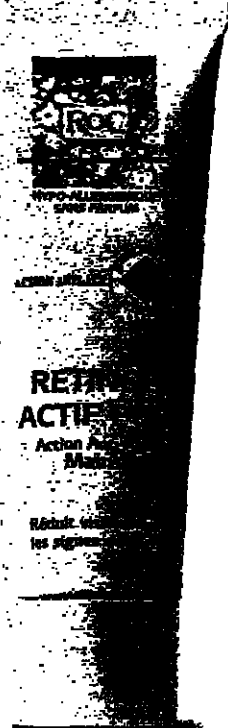
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Samaranch escapes the bloodletting

THE CANADIAN vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, Dick Pound, described it as a "very harrowing day". Some 90 of the 100 unblemished members of the IOC gathered yesterday in the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne, self-proclaimed "Capital Olympique" to vote for the first time in the Olympic movement's 106-year history to expel members for corruption.

The "crimes" of the six IOC members were involvement in accepting bribes and gifts worth \$1.2m (£750,000) in the Salt Lake City bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The meeting opened dramatically when the Olympic president, Juan Antonio Samaranch of Spain, put his leadership to the test in a secret confidence vote.

He said it was important "to take the necessary steps to be certain this very sad episode in the history of the International Olympic Movement never happens again."

He won the vote 88-2 and announced the setting up of an

BY PAUL LASHMAR

ethics committee to examine the way the Olympic movement will award the Games in future.

Each of the gathered members had read the reports into the Salt Lake City bribery allegations compiled by Mr Pound's commission. In alphabetical order the six accused came up on to the stage and were allowed to make a 20-minute presentation arguing their innocence. After each a secret ballot was held. One by one, all six members recommended for expulsion by Mr Pound's commission were kicked out.

Jean-Claude Ganga of the Congo, who has said the charges against him are a plot against Africans, received the least support: two members voted against his expulsion. Samoa's Paul Wallwork, backed by 19 members, received the most support, but it was not enough to save him. Two-thirds of the assembly needed to vote in favour of expulsion and all six went. The six, now former

members, left the building immediately, avoiding the media, and several went straight to the airport.

A member of the IOC assembly, Alex Gilady, said: "The mood of the meeting was tense but responsible and I think the right thing was done." He also said he felt that Mr Samaranch's position as president was secure after such a resounding vote in his favour.

After the meeting Mr Pound said: "It was a most extraordinary session, with extraordinary emotions."

Nine other members have received written warnings of varying severity. One case remains open. A South Korean, Kim Un Yong, until recently the heir apparent of Mr Samaranch, has received a "severe warning" but Mr Pound said yesterday that one allegation against Mr Kim remained to be resolved.

He has been accused of soliciting benefits for two of his children and a Russian teenager from the Salt Lake City bidding committee. Mr Pound's

commission is waiting for Mr Kim's lawyers to provide evidence that the South Korean says will exonerate him. If that is not forthcoming he may still be expelled.

Mr Kim was involved in an incident at the pre-assembly meeting on Tuesday. A former

South Korean CIA officer, he shouted abuse and adopted a taekwondo [martial-arts] stance at the IOC director-general Francois Carrard, a member of Mr Pound's inquiry team. Yesterday Mr Carrard said it had been "a minor incident that is now closed".

Whether the wholesale reforms offered by the IOC will save the Olympic movement is not yet clear. In the United States a number of separate investigations are under way into the Salt Lake City bid. They have built an unstoppable momentum and may lead to criminal prosecutions.

Senator John McCain, the chairman of the Senate commerce committee, said that "the demand for Congress to act will be irrepressible unless the IOC adopted major reforms". More important will be the response of the dozen or so big corporate sponsors of the Olympics such as Kodak, McDonald's and Samsung. The survival of Messrs Samaranch and Kim, at least for the moment, may not reassure them sufficiently to continue to pour millions of dollars into what many see as the shop-soiled Games.



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Olympic president, making his opening speech at yesterday's meeting in Lausanne

Reuters

Pro-animal bomb plotter is jailed

BY BRIAN FARMER

AN ANIMAL rights campaigner was yesterday jailed for seven years after being convicted of conspiring to cause explosions.

Jailing Anthony Humphries, 33, of Yardley Hastings, Northampton, Judge Ian Collis also warned other activists who planned to disrupt companies that they too would be dealt with severely.

Northampton Crown Court heard that Humphries, 33, an electrician, who has three children, planned to fire bomb drug firms involved in tests on animals.

Humphries denied conspiracy to cause an explosion and possession of an explosive substance. The jury, which took more than three hours to convict Humphries on both charges, heard that he was arrested in January last year after police watched two men

coming and going from an alleged bomb making factory at a flat in Northampton. Humphries visited the flat regularly.

"The objective of this conspiracy was either to endanger life or cause serious injury," said the judge. "These devices were in an advanced stage of preparation. All that was required was a battery to set them off."

"It must be clearly understood by activists of whatever sort or whatever cause that seeking to disrupt companies, people's lives or whatever has got to be dealt with by severe sentences."

Humphries was said to be a committed animal welfare campaigner. He was given seven years on the conspiracy charge and two years for possession to run concurrently.

IN BRIEF

Man charged over 7 arson deaths

A MAN was yesterday charged with seven counts of murder after the arson attack on a house in north-east London on 6 March in which members of four generations of a family died. Scotland Yard said the man was arrested at an address in east London. He will appear today at Stratford Magistrates Court.

Ashton admits lying to the police

LABOUR MP Joe Ashton yesterday admitted lying to the police about his age when he was questioned after being caught in a massage parlour. Mr Ashton, 65, told police he was 64. The married MP for Bassetlaw continued to deny going to the Northampton massage parlour for sex.

Labour MP's fraud trial nears end

THE JUDGE in the trial of a Labour MP accused of election expenses irregularities yesterday began his summing up. Fiona Jones, the 42-year-old MP for Newark, is charged with knowingly making a false expenses return. The trial was adjourned until today.

Inquiry into gynaecologist case

SECRETARY OF State for Health Frank Dobson has set up an independent inquiry into the handling of the case of gynaecologist Rodney Ledward, who was struck off after his botched operations left more than 200 women in Kent maimed.

The Moon was once part of Earth

SIMILARITIES in the mineral composition of the Earth and the Moon suggest that both share a common origin. Data from NASA in the US shows that early in the Earth's history the Moon was ripped away by a huge planet-sized object.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

To make the EC democratic would be to make it a threat

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OXFORD

Election of President

The Fellows of Corpus Christi College are seeking a new President in succession to Sir Keith Thomas who will retire on 31st August 2000. Anyone who wishes to apply, express an interest or suggest a candidate, is invited to contact the Vice-President, Professor D Q Grahame-Smith, CBE, Corpus Christi College, Oxford OX1 4LP by 1st May 1999. Contact telephone: (01865) 241081, fax: (01865) 791712, e-mail: david.grahame-smith@corpuschristi.ox.ac.uk. The College prospectus and further particulars are available from him and can also be found on www at <http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk>.

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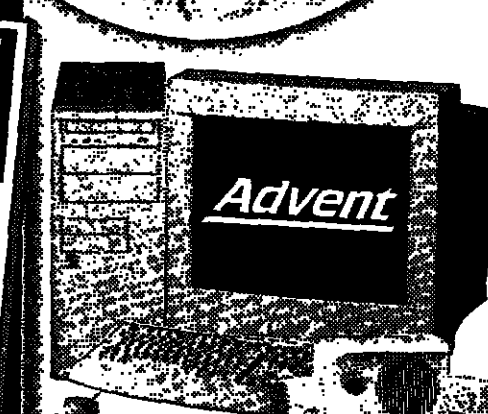
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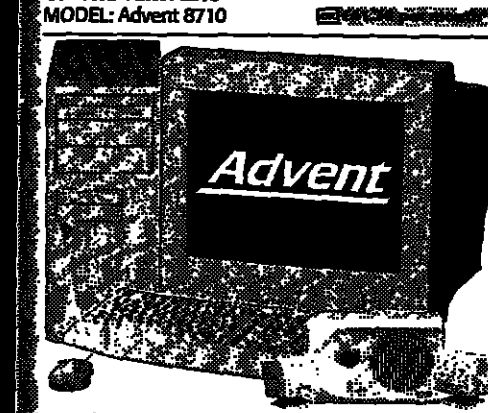
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Heart ward 'known as killing fields'

THE FATHER of a baby who died after heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary told a public inquiry yesterday that he would never have allowed the operation to go ahead if he had known the true risks.

Michael Parsons, whose daughter Mia died on the operating table in May 1993, aged 18 months, criticised the hospital and its staff for failing his daughter, showing insensitivity to the family's distress and for covering up its poor record in paediatric cardiac surgery.

Since her death, he said he had learned that the paediatric surgical department had for years been referred to by doctors in the South-west as the "Killing Fields", a reference to the film about the carnage of war in Cambodia.

However, two other fathers giving evidence on the second day of the inquiry into the Bristol baby deaths commended the skill of the surgeons and the care shown by the hospital staff. Their children, who are both doing well, are among 2,000 being examined by the inquiry who underwent complex heart operations over 11 years between 1984 and 1996.

Mr Parsons' daughter, who was born with Down's syndrome, had a hole in her heart. The surgery to correct it was carried out by James Wisheart, the senior surgeon who was struck off the medical register last year by the General Medical Council after its investigation.

Before the operation, Mr Wisheart had told Mr Parsons, a kite maker from West Wales, and his wife Pauline, that there was a 20 per cent risk of Mia

dying as a result. They were so impressed by his caring approach that even though she died, they sent him a thank you letter for doing all he could. But last June, five years after their daughter's death, the couple discovered from a BBC Panorama programme, shown after the GMC case, that Mr Wisheart's death rate was closer to 50 per cent.

Mr Parsons said he found it "incomprehensible" that the cardiologist who diagnosed Mia had referred her to Mr Wisheart knowing his poor success rate. "Had he told us the truth we

would never have agreed to the referral. I maintain my consent was obtained by giving me deliberately false information. In my view that is criminal."

On the day of the operation the hospital committed a series of blunders. Nurses failed to give Mia sufficient drugs to sedate her and she screamed so loudly when injected with the anaesthetic that her parents were shocked. Later, news of her death was broken to them on a public ward, causing distress to another parent and her child. The Parsons were ushered into a "junk room" to say

goodbye to their daughter, who appeared dressed in unfamiliar clothes, and were then hustled from the hospital.

"The way they treated us after the death was inept, unfeeling and thoughtless. Had it been handled differently I think Pauline and I would be far less hurt than we are today. Our memories of Bristol are all of pain," Mr Parsons said.

The couple cremated their daughter but learned only a few weeks ago that six years later the hospital still has her heart, which was removed at the post mortem examination.

Mr Parsons had harsh words for the GMC whose inquiry he had heard about only after it had ended. His daughter's case had been included, anonymously, because the council had been unable to trace the family. "Their efforts to contact us were a farce," he said.

But, Philip Wagstaff, 34, a Customs and Excise officer from Devon, said he had been impressed by the skill and care shown to his daughter, despite the complications that followed her surgery. Amy, who was born with holes in her heart,

had an operation in 1993 by Mr Wisheart, next day she required emergency surgery to remove a blood clot but has since made a good recovery.

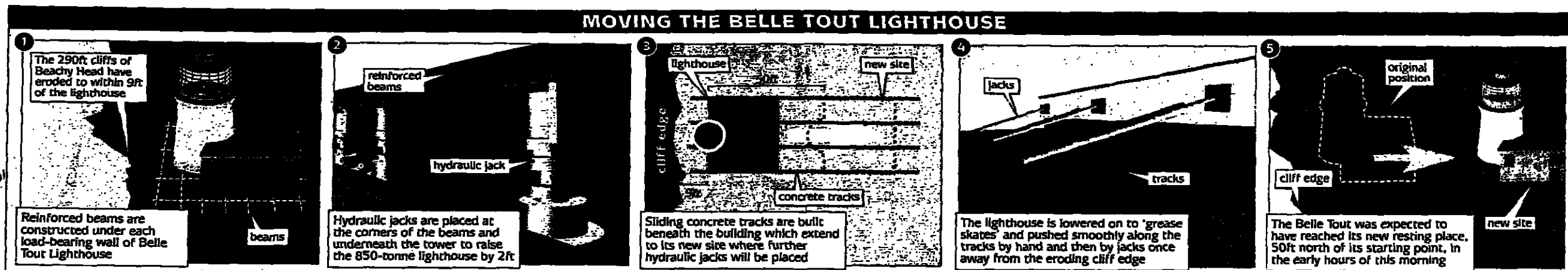
Mr Wagstaff said: "Mr Wisheart came across as a very caring man. He took time to explain the problem to us and what he was going to do. He was very open with us and was aware that as parents it was very frightening. We were confident in his abilities."

He added that the nurses had also been caring and supportive.

The inquiry continues.

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Gently does it...850 ton lighthouse is rescued

THE LIGHTHOUSE at Beachy Head, built 150 years ago to save the lives of sailors, was rescued from the threat of the sea yesterday. Crowds turned out to witness the engineering feat to move the 850-ton lighthouse 50ft back from the cliff edge using greased float pads and a series of powerful hydraulic jacks. They brought picnics to pass the nine hours the move was to take.

At midday, progress was not looking promising. The lighthouse had only moved one metre, but Paul Kiss, managing director of Abbey Pynford, the contractor, was confident that the job would be completed by the end of the day. "You're wondering why it's taking so long," he said. "The reason is that we are very concerned about the possibility of cliff failure. All we have to do is rupture some of the underlying strata and that would be the end of it. Once we get into a routine, we should, if everything goes really well, be down there by tonight."

The most precarious part of the operation was, apparently, the beginning. The force of the initial thrust by the jacks could have sent the lighthouse into the sea.

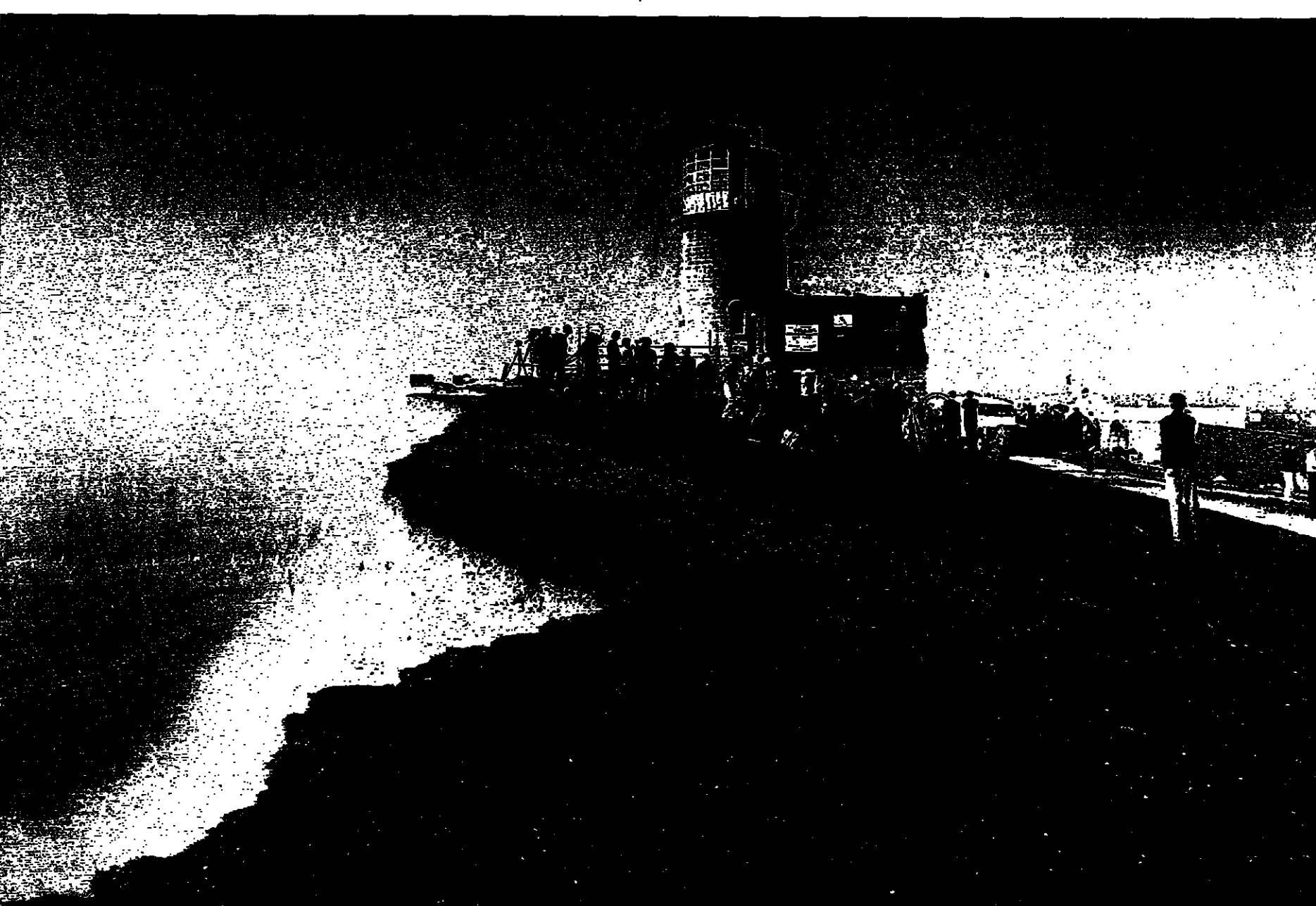
The owners of Belle Tout Lighthouse, Mark and Louise Roberts, who paid £250,000 for

the operation, appeared unfazed as they watched their home shifting ground. "It's the culmination of two-and-a-half years' work," said Mrs Roberts, 30. "In some ways we never really thought this day would happen. Once all the people go and we're here on our own and drive up the driveway and it's on the right rather than the left, then we will think 'yes, we did it. It's moved.'"

The couple, who have two children aged six weeks and 13 months, have not lived in the lighthouse since a 25ft chunk of cliff fell off in November. Originally, the move was not due for another few months, but the date was brought forward after last year's dramatic erosion.

Belle Tout has had a chequered history. Originally it was located 100ft from the cliff edge, a carefully calculated distance which allowed sailors to know that they would hit the rocks once they could no longer see the light.

However, in 1893, 85,000 tons of chalk slid into the sea, and a heavier fall followed in 1896. The lighthouse is just one of dozens of buildings under threat as coastline give way to advancing tides. Erosion has been taking place since Britain broke



The operation to move the lighthouse, made famous on BBC TV's 'Life and Loves of a She Devil', getting underway at Beachy Head yesterday. David Rose

away from mainland Europe in 6500BC.

This is largely due to the "tilt effect" of earth movements dating back to the last ice age which mean Scotland is rising while the south is sinking. In recent years erosion has speeded up, with many blaming higher sea levels caused by global warming.

A light flashed from Belle Tout for the last time on 27 September 1902. In 1929 the Corporation of Eastbourne bought the whole of Beachy Head and 4,000 acres stretching westwards and northwards. The purchase included the lighthouse.

A number of private owners have leased the lighthouse, including Joy Cullinan, 93, who owned it from 1955 to 1980. She now lives in London but returned yesterday to pull the lever which started the jacks.

The BBC used the lighthouse as the setting for its dramatisation of Fay Weldon's *Life and Loves of a She Devil*. Before it was restored, the lighthouse was used for "friendly fire" target practise by Canadian troops during the Second World War. Yesterday's move should ensure Belle Tout's safety for another 50 years. Mrs Roberts is hopeful that the home will see her out, but just in case, the engineering underpinning will stay in place.

IN BRIEF

Charged over 7 arson deaths

Admits lying to the police

MP's fraud trial nears end

Y into gynaecologist case

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DAARONOVITCH

To make the EC democratic would be to make it a threat

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Blair runs his mouth ragged over Brussels and cat tucks

MR BLAIR was having trouble with his consonants yesterday. His remarks during Prime Minister's Questions were dotted with an unusual number of verbal trip-ups.

First of all, he assured the House that the last budget would, contrary to Conservative claims, lead to a "cats tuck". Some Tories murmured uneasily at this - should British cats really be tucked, and why hadn't Gordon Brown explained this unusual veterinary policy in his Budget speech?

Then Mr Blair assured David Winnick, supplier of moral indig-

nation to the front bench, that "no stone would be left unturned in the hunt" for the murderers of Rosemary Nelson. Another murmur from assembled MPs - who naturally felt the RUC should be doing more than unleashing its considerable powers of insinuation.

Later still, the Prime Minister reassured Kenneth Purchase that more people were now entering "the Labour party". He actually meant "the labour market" but, this last wishful thought apart, all these stumbles were less Freudian slips than simple evidence that the Prime Minister had been running his mouth ragged over the last

few days, sweaty telephone crumpling his earlobe as he attempted to parlay the Brussels earthquake into the opportunity for a new model city.

Mr Hague, I think, would be grateful if it were only his lips that disobeyed him.

Returning to the issue of Europe, Mr Hague attempted to apply "kitchen table Conservatism" rules to the debate. "This is an opportunity to talk about the future and not the past," he said, almost pleadingly, underlining his recent insistence that his party should move on from past errors.

This is easier said than done, of

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

course, since the group most likely to bring up the Conservatives' past record is that army of tor-

mentors facing him across the dispatch box, and while Mr Hague's authority over his own party is a gauzy thing at the best of times, it is sheet steel compared to his discipline over the Labour party.

He is also at a disadvantage when it comes to his injunction to set aside knee-jerk partisanship and be constructive about the more acceptable elements of Labour policy. If he wants to offer the statesmanlike gift of cross-party support, he's only got Mr Blair to hand it to and hostilities must cease temporarily to allow the exchange to take place.

The Prime Minister, on the other hand, can continue firing on Mr Hague while hurling olive branches over his head at the distinguished Europhiles on the Tory back benches - as he did yesterday during another brisk exchange on the European Commission.

Mr Hague did rally now and then, scoring a hit on the Deputy Prime Minister with his dismissive description of Mr Prescott "chasing angel fish round a coral reef".

Mr Prescott tried at first to laugh off this jab at his underwater fact-finding mission but making light of insults is not one of his

innate skills - a few seconds later the smile vanished and his ruddy suntan flushed an even deeper red.

Still, this cheered up Tory back-benchers and Mr Hague has also, I think, identified a promising pressure point with his suggestion that Parliament should be given increased powers to scrutinise Government appointments of European commissioners.

MPs on all sides get excited at the idea of reviving their somewhat shrivelled powers - and it is very hard for Mr Blair not to sound like a killjoy when he squashes the notion flat in his reply.

Hague calls for MPs to vet commissioners

WILLIAM HAGUE sided with Labour left-wingers yesterday when he demanded a strengthening of Parliament's power to vote for and appoint British commissioners in Brussels.

The Tory leader echoed Tony Benn's call for greater powers for MPs over appointments to the European Commission in light of this week's exposure of fraud and mismanagement by an official inquiry.

But Tony Blair repeatedly rejected his proposal during question time, stressing the Tories had had 18 years to change the system and failed to do so.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Mr Hague had already enjoyed his own right to nominate a new commissioner when he recommended Sir Alastair Goodlad, the former Tory chief whip, for the next opening. "You never said once it should be done in a different way," he added.

"In respect of parliamentary scrutiny, of course they are always subject to parliamentary scrutiny. But I believe the system of appointment that has applied under successive governments is the best system."

EUROPE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Under the present convention, Labour, as the governing party, takes turns with the opposition parties - namely the Tories and Liberal Democrats - in nominating commissioners.

Mr Blair also made it clear that any commissioner found "guilty of fraud or misconduct" should not get large pay-offs when they leave office.

However, launching his attack Mr Hague insisted that this was an opportunity to enhance the role of Parliament. "Is there any reason why we should not agree across the House that the appointment of new British commissioners should be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and the approval of this House?"

"You have not appointed commissioners before and I haven't been involved in it before. This is an opportunity to talk about the future, not the past... Can't you agree for once to expand the role of Parliament?"

Replying, the Prime Minister said Parliament was "at

ways entitled to scrutinise whatever it wishes to".

"I know you try to say it was nothing to do with you the last 18 years... in relation to the nomination of European commissioners, you have made your nomination on behalf of the Conservative Party and as far as I recollect your letter never once said it should be done in a different way."

Mr Hague said it was of "paramount importance" to say to the commissioners they must do less, because the report found that the Commission was implementing policies over which it was exceedingly difficult to exert effective control.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, called the "Brussels fiasco" of the last few days "a scandal waiting to happen". But he challenged the Prime Minister: "What urgent steps are you now taking to ensure that following the welcome resignation of [Jacques] Santer today, the Commission is not left leaderless, Europe is not left incapacitated and the essential reforms are not indefinitely delayed?"



Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, speaking at the annual Public Health Forum in Brighton, East Sussex, yesterday. Steve Dennyett

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Pupils will see Dome for free

ALMOST ONE million school-children will be given free entry to the Millennium Dome, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

Up to 10,000 schools will each be allowed to apply for 100 free tickets in a regionally balanced draw aimed at ensuring that as many pupils as possible visit the dome in Greenwich during 2000.

The £2m "giveaway" is understood to have followed pressure from the Secretary of State for Culture Chris Smith, and culture minister, Lord Falconer, on the New Millennium Experience Company. They are

MILLENNIUM DOME
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

said to have wanted to give poorer children a chance to see the exhibition.

However, critics claimed the scheme was a panic move to bolster attendance figures and justify the £449m of public money spent on it.

Children's tickets to the exhibition are expected to cost £8 each.

The Prime Minister told the House of Commons of the free entry scheme as he announced

that the Government was on target to raise £150m in private sponsorship for the dome.

"With the eyes of the world on us at Greenwich Mean Time, it is entirely appropriate that we celebrate the millennium in this way," he said at Prime Minister's Questions.

"We also believe that as a result of incoming tourism there will be a resulting benefit to London and the whole of the country, running into several billions of pounds."

"In relation to the dome itself, there is not a single penny piece of taxpayer's money that

will be used. We believe the sponsorship target of £150m will be met fully."

However, Conservative culture spokesman Peter Ainsworth said that there must be worries that the scheme was a panic response to fears that not enough children would visit the dome.

"Children so far have shown that they are taking a sceptical view of this project. If you are given free tickets to go with your school, you are much more likely to go than if you had to pay and go with your parents," he said.

THE HOUSE



No GM deals

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the Cabinet Office Minister, insisted the Government had not reached any "secret deals" with firms involved in genetically modified food. He told MPs: "The Government is not offering any favours to the industry."

Extend reforms

LORD WEATHERILL, the convenor of the cross-benchers, called for the remit of the Royal Commission on the Lords reforms to apply to the Commons. He wants MPs' work devolved to councils, ministerial aides cut, and pay rises for select committee chairmen.

Tax credit error

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT Steve Webb accused the Government of tacitly admitting an error in the working families tax credit. He said the Budget indicated that family benefits should be paid to the main carer, not to the main earner, as under the new tax credit.

Aid guidelines to be tightened

CHARITIES APPLYING for British aid will have to sign up to anti-corruption clauses designed to prevent grants being mis-spent or used for bribes. Clare Short will announce tomorrow.

The move will be among initiatives to be launched by the Secretary of State for International Development in a speech at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The clauses will be inserted into contracts for aid projects and for purchases made by the Department for International Development.

The poor suffer disproportionately from the effects of corruption, she believes. For

example a national bribe index published in India showed that a new water connection required a bribe of 1,000 rupees (£16.20), preventing the poorest families from getting clean water supplies.

Ms Short will also tackle the problem of misappropriated funds ending up in Western bank accounts where they are placed for investment or safe keeping and she will tell of project Britain is supporting in Uganda, which has brought senior figures to trial for corruption.

PM 'will talk to hauliers'

THE PRIME MINISTER yesterday made it clear he would listen to the complaints from road hauliers who are campaigning against the Budget increases in duty on diesel fuel.

With the road haulage industry threatening to move its offices to the Continent to pay lower fuel duties, Tony Blair assured the lorry companies he understood the problems of the industry.

In clashes with William Hague, the Tory leader, Mr Blair said the biggest increases in fuel duty had been under

TRANSPORT
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

the Tories. But the Prime Minister's spokesman later confirmed the Government was ready to listen to the protests.

"The Government can do all sorts of things. The first thing we can do is listen to what people say."

The spokesman reaffirmed the Government's policy to increase fuel duty over the Parliament to help meet Britain's targets on reducing pollution.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Child care

CHILDREN AGED up to 14 will be eligible for child-care tax credit to be introduced under the Tax Credits Bill, the Paymaster-General Dawn Primarolo said.

Leaks promise

THE GOVERNMENT will implement whatever recommendations are made by the Standards and Privileges Committee on how to deal with leaked Select Committee reports, the Prime Minister said.

Tuition millions

UNIVERSITIES IN England and Wales are expected to receive £138m from tuition fees, Education minister George Mudge disclosed.

Today

Commons: Education and Employment questions; Opposition debates on "the strength of the police" and "the Government's failed roads policy". Lords: Health Bill, report; Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 (Continuance) Order

Sikh killing echo of Lawrence case

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE FATAL stabbing of a Sikh waiter after a confrontation in the street with three white men has been identified by anti-racist campaigners as Scotland's equivalent to the Stephen Lawrence murder in London.

Surjit Singh Chhokar was stabbed to death outside his girlfriend's home last November. Only one of the three suspects was tried for murder and was eventually convicted of the lesser charge of assault.

Yesterday, the parents of Stephen Lawrence, a black teenager murdered in a racist attack in south-east London in 1993, were invited to Scotland to back the Chhokar Family Justice Campaign.

The Lawrence family's solicitor, Imran Khan, said yesterday: "We have received a communication from campaigners in Glasgow and we have been invited to a news conference about the case on Monday."

During a trial last week at the High Court in Glasgow, a jury heard that Mr Chhokar, 32, from Wishaw, Lanarkshire, was fatally stabbed in an altercation in the street outside girlfriend Liz Bryce's home in Overtown, Lanarkshire, last November.



The Lanarkshire street where Chhokar was killed

Mr Chhokar had two daughters, Amandeep, three, and Honey, 13.

He was separated from his 30-year-old wife, Sandi.

Ronnie Coulter, 30, was acquitted of murdering Mr Chhokar after he lodged a special defence blaming his 17-year-old cousin, Andrew Coulter, and 22-year-old David Montgomery with Mr Chhokar's murder.

Lord McCluskey, Scotland's longest-serving judge, who presided over the trial, was highly critical that only Coulter

was in the dock. He told the jury: "A man was murdered in a public street by one or more persons who have been discussed in the course of this trial. For reasons that I cannot begin to understand, only one of those persons was placed in the dock."

"I will be taking steps to find out how that decision was reached."

In an unprecedented war of words, Lord Advocate Lord Hardie hit back, calling Lord McCluskey's remarks "ignorant, uninformed and ill-advised".

The Chhokar Family Justice Campaign believes there are similarities to the Stephen Lawrence case and is pressing for the other two suspects to be brought to trial.

A spokesman for the campaigners, Asmer Anwar, said: "If three black men had murdered a white man would the Crown Office have made such a mess of the case and been so insensitive to the family?"

The Crown Office, Scotland's prosecuting authority, said that it would be inappropriate to comment, as proceedings were still active and the two other suspects could still be tried.

Strathclyde Police have said they do not believe there was a racist element to the attack.

Meanwhile, the condition of a black teenager who lapsed into a coma after being kicked by a white gang in a racially-motivated attack in the West Midlands on Saturday night improved slightly yesterday.

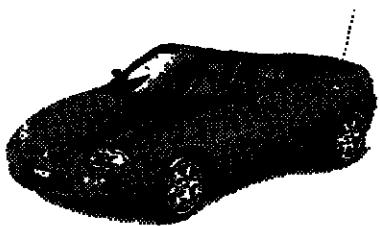
David Virgo, 19, a trainee landscape gardener, has emerged from a coma but was still too unwell yesterday to be interviewed by police.

He was punched and kicked unconscious after leaving a pub disco in Blackheath, near Dudley. Witnesses told police that Mr Virgo was subjected to racist abuse and his head was "kicked like a football".

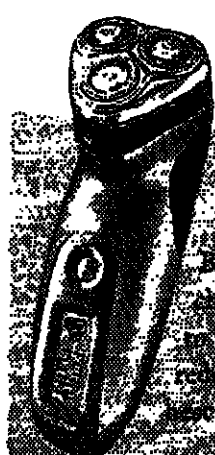


Surjit Singh Chhokar, with his estranged wife, Sandi. The Chhokar Family Justice Campaign believes his murder was racially motivated. Strathclyde Police do not

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Police officers sue over Dunblane

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

TWO WOMEN police constables who claim they received just one hour of counselling following the Dunblane massacre are suing their force for £800,000, it emerged yesterday.

It was also disclosed that about £3m in damages had already been paid in compensation to 139 people who had been affected by the tragedy.

The two women, one of whom has retired on medical grounds while the other is off on long-term sick leave, say that they suffered psychological problems as a result of the 1996 killings, in which 16 children and their teacher were shot dead by Thomas Hamilton in the small Scottish town.

The women, aged 26 and 30, of Central Scotland Police, say that they were sent to Dunblane school shortly after Hamilton struck. One of them guarded the school gate, meeting distressed parents. Both women eventually went into the gym, where the dead and injured were lying, and were later involved in assisting families of the children.

The officers, who have not been named, are each suing for £400,000, claiming that the force failed to provide them with adequate counselling to help them overcome the trauma that they suffered. Proceedings have been commenced against Chief Constable William Wilson. It is alleged that Mr Wilson was negligent in not providing a critical incident stress debriefing.

The solicitor representing the two officers, Ian Watson, said: "We take the view that the stress counselling received by both officers was totally inadequate."

He added that he feared both their careers could be ruined by the psychological effects of the trauma.

The case is believed to be the first action by a police officer against his or her force in relation to Dunblane.

In December, the House of Lords ruled that four police officers who had suffered severe mental trauma as a result of treating dying fans on the pitch at the 1989 Hillsborough football disaster were not entitled to compensation.

In a majority decision, the Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision in 1996 that the officers should receive damages after being exposed by the admitted negligence of South Yorkshire Police, to "excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness even in a police officer".

Yesterday's legal action follows a row earlier in the week about the level of compensation paid to the Dunblane victims' families.

Christine McSkimming, the grandmother and legal guardian of a schoolgirl who was shot twice in the incident, described a £4,500 pay-out she had received from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority as a "slap in the face".

Her granddaughter, Aimee Adam, now eight, suffered a damaged sciatic nerve and a shattered foot.

The authority has dealt with 203 applications for compensation so far rejecting 64 and paying out about £3m to 139 claimants. A further 111 cases have yet to be dealt with.

A spokesman for Victim Support Scotland said that the needs of the injured and the victim's families should be addressed before those of professionals who had served at the scene of the massacre.

"In a sense, the issue is that they [the two WPCs] can do whatever they want and can sue whomever they want," he said.

"But if they were to get that money, we would perceive that as being a little unfair... I am aware that there is a certain amount of disquiet at the levels of those awards in the Dunblane community."

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Pinochet ruling due next week

BY KIM SENGUPTA

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BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

ed the acceptance of applications accompanied by only photocopies of marriage certificates. Mr. Sheehan also advised that any countersignatories who omitted to say how long they have known the applicant "should be given the benefit of the doubt".

The memo, reported tomorrow in *Computer Weekly* magazine, stated that "the widest interpretation" should be given to counter-signatories in deciding their status.

Photographs that were not accompanied by the correct wording from a counter-signatory should still be accepted. Mr Sheehan said the new system was designed to "attempt to increase output" but should only apply to cases where "there is no significant doubt about the identity of the applicant".

In response to the memo, George Ryan, the manager at Liverpool, the Passport Agency's largest office, said the measures would "increase the risk of fraudulent passports slipping through the system".

John Tinney, of the Immigration Service Union, said relaxed security checks would quickly be exploited by those involved in illegal immigration scams and other criminal activity. He was particularly concerned about the agency's willingness to accept photocopied identity documents. "Photocopied documents have no value whatsoever. With the quality of photocopying equipment available, it is so easy to produce forgeries."



ITV is teaming Brenda Blethyn (left) with Julie Walters; Johnny Morris (top) and John Noakes both return for tea-time animal shows



Bond and Blethyn lead ITV strategy to dominate peaktime schedules

BY REYS WILLIAMS*

For lovers of Seventies children's programmes, the schedule's most important move was to herald the return of two television heroes to tea time. Former *Blue Peter* presenter John Noakes and Johnny Morris, the face and voice of *Animal Magic*, have both had their careers revived by ITV. Mr Morris was last seen in *Animal Magic* more than 20 years ago, while Mr Noakes has been lured from his Spanish retreat to present *Mad About Pets*.

The £190m that ITV is spending, much of it on peak time, is the most the network has invested in a single sched-

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, said: "We've got more peak air time to fill and therefore we are having to spend more money. The summer schedules, not just on ITV but all channels, have often looked a little thin in the past. But we will have the most first-run material in a single quarter than there has ever been in the past."

John Thaw will star in *The Plastic Man* as a plastic surgeon whose skill with the

scalpel is not reflected in his handling of his personal life. The *Blonde Bombshell*, featuring Amanda Redman, charts Diana Dors' life and journey from a wannabe starlet, through two marriages and a failed Hollywood career to her final days as a chat- and game-show stalwart on British television.

Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters team up in *Girls Night*, written by the award-winning Kay Mellor. It tells the story of two sisters-in-law on a dream trip to Las Vegas after one of them wins at bingo and discovers she has a brain tumour. Robson Green, of *Soldier, Soldier*, also returns to ITV in two drama series.

Television's enduring capacity for anything involving doctors or nurses continues with yet another medical drama series, *Always and Everyone* starring Martin Shaw and Niamh Cusack.

The schedule also features two programmes will attempt to deflect charges that the network is dumbing down and downgrading factual programming in peak time. *Tonight* with Trevor McDonald is expected to become ITV's flagship current-affairs programme and will be broadcast weekly at 10 o'clock. In the epic 20 part-series *Two Thousand Years* Melvyn Bragg will examine the history and influence of Christianity.

Rising waters threaten London

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

RISE IN WATER levels beneath London are to be tackled by drilling a network of boreholes aimed at preventing hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage to buildings and the Underground system.

Fifty boreholes, costing between £15m and £20m, will extract 70 million litres of water a day in a bid to bring down the water table which is rising by up to three metres every year.

The scheme was unveiled yesterday by Thames Water on behalf of a group of organisations which includes the Environment Agency, the Association of British Insurers, BT and London Underground.

If nothing is done, the foundations of some of the capital's tallest office blocks could be affected by rising water levels within a decade. The water level is now only 40 metres beneath Trafalgar Square.

The borehole plan could be replicated in other cities in the United Kingdom, including Birmingham and Manchester.

Bill Alexander, chief executive of Thames Water, said: "There is no time to waste. Though the rising groundwater threat in London is the most immediate, it is a problem affecting other cities in Britain and around the world, so we can lead the way for others to follow."

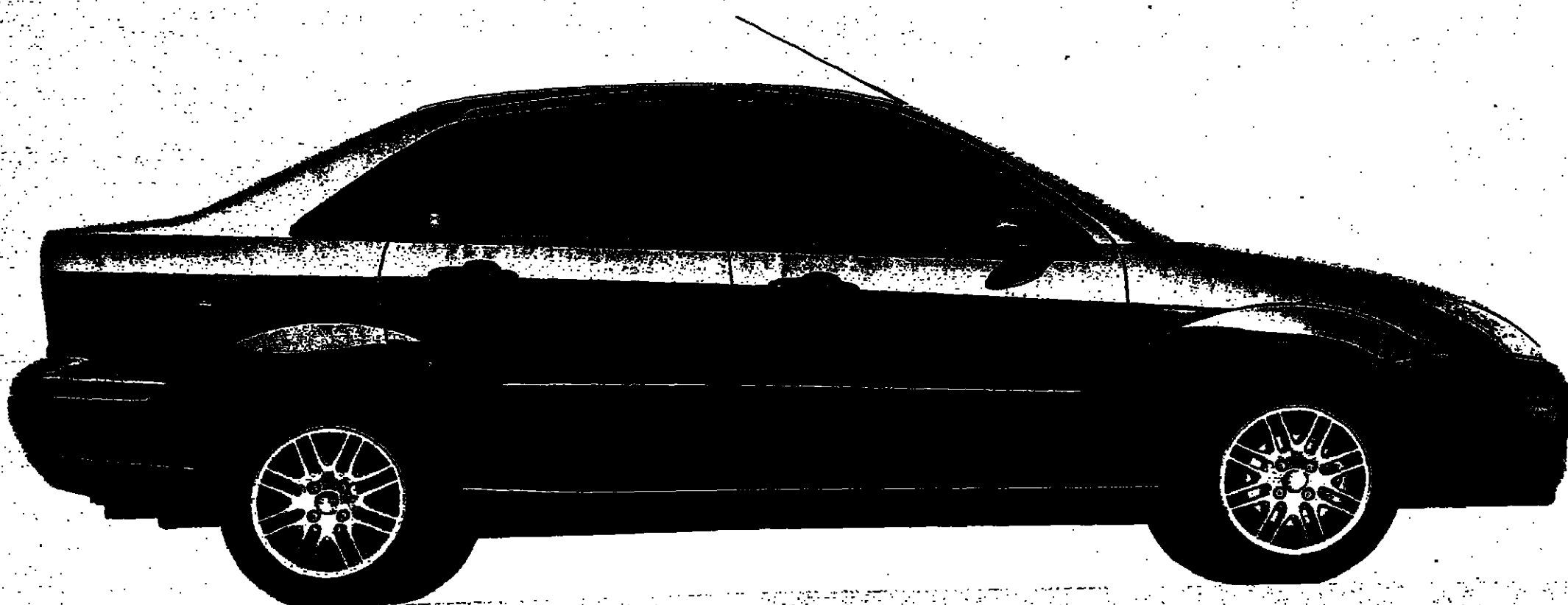
From the mid-19th century onwards the water table in London fell by more than 90 metres as industries extracted their own water. Since the demise of brewing and engineering firms in the capital, water levels have risen substantially.

The plan to combat the problem will be implemented over the next five years.

A borehole is planned for the Millennium Dome in Greenwich where rising groundwater would be used to flush the toilets. Other boreholes have already opened at Streatham and Merton and work has started at Islington, Battersea and Brixton.

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Car Of The Year 1999

the new ford**focus**



THE TOP SUPERMARKETS: WHO IS SELLING WHAT

	TESCO	SAINSBURY	ASDA	SAFEBAY	SOMERFIELD (merged last year)	KWIKSAVE	MARKS AND SPENCER	WILLIAM MORRISON	WAITROSE	ICELAND
Own brands with GM ingredients	150 out of 20,000	40-50 out of 1,500	39 out of 4,000	150 out of 9,000	150 out of 4,000 (Som) and 400 (KS)		100 out of 3,000	Not able to say	4 out of 8,127	0 out of 900
Typical examples	Black bean sauce, vegetable soup, chicken and veg pie	Tomato puree, chicken and ham pate, dog food	Chicken tikka sandwich, cream scones, chilli con carne	Chicken Kiev, cheese and tomato pizza, potato wedges	Sausage rolls, leek and potato soup, liver sausage		Turkey and coleslaw sandwich, pancakes, Chinese takeaway box	Chicken burgers, Hollandaise sauce, Yorkshire pudding mix	Japanese soy sauce, Teriyaki, crispy crunch cake	Not applicable
Future policy	No plans to eliminate GM ingredients	Own brands GM free by end of summer	GM free within the next three months	Gradually phasing out GM ingredients	Asking suppliers wherever possible to use non-GM ingredients. Otherwise label clearly		GM-free in three months time	Examining feasibility of replacing products	GM-free by end of March	Own brands GM-free since May 1 1998
What they say	'Customers have told us they want honest and clear labelling and that's where we're concentrating our efforts'	'We are giving shoppers what they want'	'We've got an open mind on GM products, but our customers are concerned and we listen to our customers'	'We feel GM soya and maize fall to offer any tangible benefits to our customers'	'It's consumer choice. Our first priority is to our customers, and they expect to see it'		'Customers have told us they feel GM food is being rushed through too quickly and they are uncomfortable with it'	'We are aware that some customers may have reservations about genetic modification'	'It's customer preference'	'The scientific effects of GM food are unknown and scientific opinion is divided'
Other GM brands	Not known how many	Unable to say	Not known	Total not known	Not known how many		None, all food they sell is own brand	Not able to say	Not known how many	Total unknown
Future policy	No policy	Up to the brands	Brands expected to label GM products	Brands to comply with Govt policy	Expect brands to comply with the law on labelling		Not applicable	Company owning the brand is responsible	Want full information on all products	Labelling helps, but prefer non-GM
Friends of The Earth verdict	Market leader now left chasing the field	Delighted at policy change	Walking in the right direction	Pleased at turnaround	If it's customers top priority, they must go GM-free quicker		Very pleased with change of heart	Lagging behind and need to catch up	Excellent	The market leader Set the pace for GM-free shopping

Tesco isolated over policy on GM foods

THE GOVERNMENT'S most senior scientific adviser on genetically modified foods warned yesterday that there could be a world food disaster if the products did not exist.

Professor Janet Bainbridge, chair of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, told MPs that the public needed GM foods and a moratorium on their release would achieve nothing.

BY PAUL WAUGH
AND MICHAEL MCCARTHEY

Prof Bainbridge's defence of GM foods came as Sainsbury's became the latest supermarket chain to announce a ban on GM ingredients in its own-brand groceries.

Following similar moves by Marks and Spencer and Iceland, Sainsbury's decision means that only Tesco has no

plans to phase out the products.

In evidence to the Commons Science and Technology Committee, Prof Bainbridge also said that debate over GM foods had "been and gone".

"Imposition of a ban on the cultivation or sale of GM foods would achieve nothing except jeopardise the competitiveness of UK industry," she said.

Her comments were echoed by the Government's chief ad-

viser on GM crops, who told MPs that his committee should stick to science and leave ethics to Parliament.

Professor John Beringer, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, said that it was becoming indefensible to regulate crops purely because they were genetically modified.

"The Americans are not stupid, and we should... examine

why there is such a different attitude to GMOs on their side of the Atlantic," he said.

"At worst I believe that GM crops will only add to existing problems of intensification in agriculture and at best they will greatly enhance our ability to solve problems."

Although nine of the 10 biggest supermarkets are looking into the possibility of replacing GM products, Tesco

does not plan to replace the 150 of its 20,000 own-label products which contain genetically modified soya and maize.

The company, which has more than 15 per cent of the 200bn UK grocery market, says that its customers want honesty and clear product labelling.

A Tesco spokesman explained: "To go completely GM-free is a very significant move and we don't want to give our

customers false hopes."

Safeway, the fourth biggest supermarket, is gradually phasing out GM ingredients. It said yesterday: "Safeway's position on GM soya and maize is that they fail to offer any tangible benefits to our customers."

This frank statement raised eyebrows as next month Safeway's public affairs manager, Tony Coombes, will become di-

rector of public affairs at Monsanto, the world's biggest promoter of GM food.

Prof Beringer claimed that his committee's secretariat was far too small, with just nine staff to cover all UK, EU and international regulations.

He also warned that poor publicity for the committee, together with a failure to pay its members, had made it difficult to attract top-grade scientists.

Stone Age people modified crops

ONE OF the earliest experiments in genetic engineering took place about 7,500 years ago and resulted in the first corn on the cob. Scientists have retraced steps taken by Stone Age farmers who created the first maize crop from a Mexican wild grass using a sophisticated process of genetic selection.

A study into the genetic ancestry of the maize plant found it is derived from a non-descript species of wild grass which grows in Mexico. The researchers have found how Neolithic farmers in North America selected specific strains of the wild grass which eventually resulted in a plant that produced a tightly knotted clump of nutritious seeds on a cob. The study found the farmers were unwittingly modifying a genetic-control region in the grass which caused long tassels of its seeds to shorten into edible ears that could be harvested more easily.

John Doebley, who led the research team at the University of Minnesota, said the study confirmed how the maize plant, which does not exist naturally,

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

was derived artificially by a process of genetic selection from a wild Mexican grass called Balsas teosinte. The artificial selection carried out by the early farmers increased the total amount of variation seen in modern maize crops, which are far more diverse than the ancestral grass from which they were derived, the researchers report in *Nature*.

"Our results help to explain why maize is such a variable crop. They also suggest that maize domestication required hundreds of years, and confirm previous evidence that maize was domesticated from Balsas teosinte of south-western Mexico," they report.

Svante Paabo, an expert on archaeological genetics at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, said the research is important because it demonstrates how quickly domestic crops were produced from wild plants. "This is a significant result because archaeologists are still debating how many

centuries or millennia were necessary for early farmers to achieve the changes that made maize a mainstay of farming," Dr Paabo said.

"Of all human inventions, none has had a more profound effect on our history — and on our biosphere as a whole — than agriculture... This momentous development relied on the genetic manipulation of only a handful of plants by early farmers."

Wild Mexican grass looks so different from domesticated maize that their close relationship could only be confirmed by the genetic analysis that showed how the long tassels became short ears.

"This study is fascinating to me because it provides the first glimpse of what went on during one of the earliest genetic-engineering experiments," Dr Paabo said.

The genetic techniques used in the study could also be used to dissect the modification that took place to create other domestic plants and animals, including cats and dogs, he added.

Greeks lose right to claim Feta as theirs

FETA HAS gone the way of Yorkshire pudding and Eccles cakes. No longer may Greece claim a monopoly over the crumbly white cheese, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The court overturned a decision that had given protection to Feta as an exclusively Greek product. Other countries that made the cheese, such as Denmark, Germany and France, had been prevented from marketing it under that name.

The Luxembourg court ruled that the Brussels Commission had unjustly prevented other member states from calling their own produce "Feta".

The court said that although some product names that made geographical reference were protected by European Union law as "designations of origin", Feta was a long-established generic term that could no longer be claimed solely by its place of birth.

Europe has already withdrawn from special protection the names of a range of national and regional specialities. Cheddar cheese made outside the West Country may now be sold as "Cheddar", and "Eccles" cakes may now come from outside Greater Manchester.

But the names of other products, including Cornish clotted cream and Stilton cheese, have

BY KATHY MAREK

been given "geographic protection". Greece has long argued that Feta cheeses made elsewhere in Europe are foreign impostors and pale imitations of the real thing.

The name comes from the Greek word for "pieces" — *fetes*. According to the traditional method of manufacture, blocks of sheep's-milk cheese are cut into pieces, salted in brine, placed in wooden barrels, metal

containers or skin bags, and left in a cool place to ripen.

In 1996, at the request of Greece, the Commission conducted a Europe-wide survey on the manufacture and consumption of Feta cheese, and consulted a scientific committee on names of origin.

The Commission concluded that "Feta" had not become the common name of a product and that it "continues to evoke a Greek origin". The cheese was placed on a register of names known as "protected designation of origin".

Cheese makers in Denmark, Germany and France, forced to label their produce "white cheese", challenged the decision, arguing that their cheeses had been marketed as Feta since 1963, 1981 and 1985 respectively.

The judges yesterday agreed, saying that the Commission had "unjustly" minimised the importance to be attached to the situation.

They said: "To decide whether a name has become generic, the situation existing in the member state in which the name originates, and in areas of consumption, together with relevant national or community legislation, must all be taken into account."

"The Commission should, in particular, have taken account of the existence of products legally on the market."

WHO OWNS FOOD?

Products that can be made outside their place of origin:

- Yorkshire pudding
- Eccles cakes
- Cheddar cheese
- Feta cheese
- Edam and Gouda

Products that have been given geographic protection:

- Scottish beef
- Stilton cheese
- Jersey Royal potatoes
- Newcastle Brown Ale
- French champagne
- Provence lavender oil
- Italian Parma ham

3Com

More connected.

Three choreographers I'd like to work with. Francoise Pierrat in Paris.

Ballet class 10am. Physiotherapy at 4pm. Dinner with Mark 7.30pm.

The critics' reviews of my performance. Notes on Nureyev's bio.

Buy another six pairs of leg warmers. Passes to Katherine premiere (hey, who's jealous?).

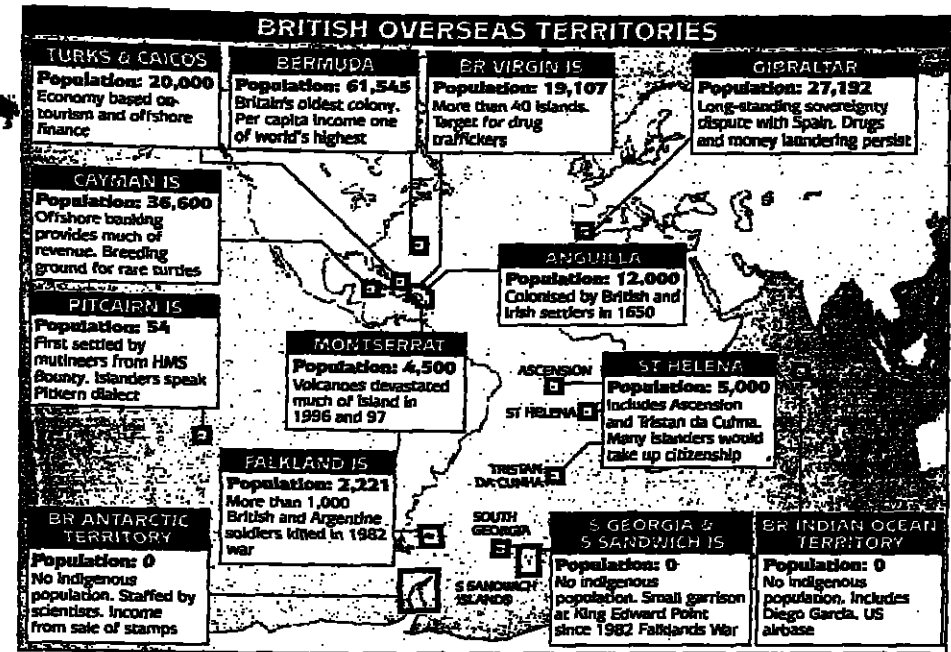
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Welcome to Britain. But Cayman islanders say it's better at home



Few residents of the Cayman Islands are expected to take up the Foreign Secretary's offer

"MOVE TO England?" laughed Marcie Chittenden, almost scornfully. "Why would anyone want to leave the Cayman Islands? It's beautiful here."

Mrs Chittenden has a good point. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday that residents of Britain's Overseas Territories are to be granted citizenship. As a result, the 150,000 people living in the last remnants of the empire can move to Britain and travel freely in the European Community. But as Mrs Chittenden explained so succinctly, the vast majority of Britain's overseas residents would not dream of moving.

"When I was a little girl, a lot of the men were seafarers," said Mrs Chittenden, 54, secretary of the Church of God in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, the largest of the three islands which make up the territory. "They would go all over the world and see all sorts, but when they came back they would say to me: 'There is no place like Cayman'."

The 38,000 or so islanders of

the Caymans (the other two islands are Cayman Brac and Little Cayman) enjoy an enviable climate, situated as they are in the eastern Caribbean. There is an abundance of flora and fauna. Life is relaxed and calm. But it is not simply the lifestyle that appeals. The Caymans, a large-scale centre for offshore finance, also enjoy a standard of living well above Britain's. Per capita, islanders have a GDP of around £20,000 compared to £14,500 in Britain.

"Britain is great - the education I have had has been great, but I don't think that I would want to live here permanently," said Paul Byles, 32, of Georgetown, who is studying for a PhD in economics at the University of Surrey in Guildford. "There might be some people who would prefer the big-city lifestyle but I don't think there will be lots of people rushing to move."

The offer of citizenship does not come without a price. Announcing his White Paper yesterday, Mr Cook said Britain's 13 Overseas Territories (formerly the Dependent Territories) would have to modernise their human rights legislation.

Homosexuality is a crime in the five Caribbean territories - Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Montserrat, the Caymans and the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) - although residents say it is enforced rarely. Corporal punishment remains on the statutes in the BVI (last handed down as a sentence in 1996) and Bermuda, where most locals believe it acts as a deterrent to hooliganism and juvenile crime. Capital punishment has theoretically been retained in Bermuda, though it has not been used since 1977 when two people were executed. The death penalty also remains on the statute for piracy and treason.

"The homosexuality law will be a big issue," Mrs Chittenden said. "What people do in the privacy of their own homes is not really an issue but they will not be wanting to condone an ungodly lifestyle."

Perhaps even greater concern will be the requirement that the territories bring in new regulations for their burgeoning financial services industries. The White Paper notes that many of the systems are potential targets for money launderers and drug traffickers. "Some Overseas Territories do not yet fully meet international standards," Mr Cook told the Commons yesterday. "The globalisation of international finance means that we cannot tolerate a weak link anywhere in the chain."

The governor of the BVI, Frank Savage, said yesterday he believed people were concerned that extra regulation could deter investors.

Some territory citizens may be keener than others to take up the offer of moving to Britain. While most residents of Bermuda are unlikely to be interested, up to 5,500 poverty-stricken residents of St Helena have long been campaigning for rights of citizenship.

Residents of Montserrat, devastated by volcanoes in 1996 and twice in 1997, may also be ready to leave.

But one thing Mr Cook made clear yesterday was that the arrangement was, sadly, not reciprocal: anyone fed up with life in Britain does not have the automatic right to up and move to warmer climes.

Leading article, Review, page three

Richest union boss has pay cut

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

GORDON TAYLOR, the highly paid head of the footballers' union, has taken a pay cut of £1,000 a week despite rocketing wages among his millionaire members.

However, Mr Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), is still some distance from the headline on a package worth £370,000 a year, according to figures from the Government's certification officer. Mr Taylor's earnings are partly linked with television rights, which seemed to suffer a temporary blip.

The PFA chief will look with some envy at Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United, who is in the middle of negotiating his £30,000 a week up to a reputed £40,000, and David Beckham, of Manchester United, who last August signed a deal said to be worth £7m over five years.

Less favoured players in the Premiership still make around £4,000 a week.

According to the certification officer's annual report, Mr Taylor is still the highest paid union leader. In second place is Dr Ernest Armstrong, of the British Medical Association, on £118,310. Third is Paul Snowball, of the banking union UNIFI, on £104,133; fourth Christine Hancock, of the Royal College of Nursing, on £99,500; and fifth Peter Smith, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, on £95,000.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the public services union Unison and champion of low-paid workers, received a package last year worth nearly £84,000.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, has a package worth £70,700, to lead a membership estimated at fewer than 6,000.

The lowest-paid officer is at the Scottish Union of Power Loom Technicians, with an honorarium of £100.

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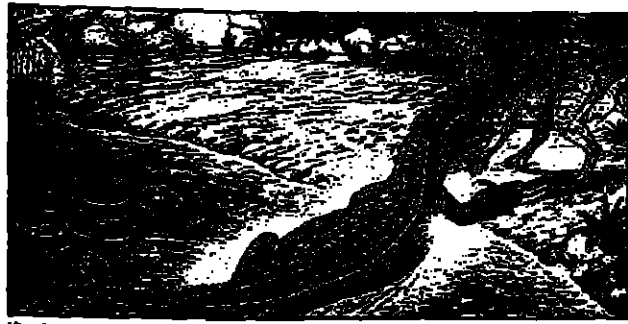
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Solved: Mystery of crocodile that feasted on dinosaurs



Deinosuchus grew slowly but lived for at least 50 years

SCIENTISTS HAVE solved the mystery of a giant prehistoric crocodile which was so big that it could make a meal of a dinosaur.

Deinosuchus was five times the size of the biggest crocodiles alive today and researchers have now discovered why - it lived far longer than its present-day cousins.

Unlike the dinosaurs, which became giants by putting on

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

weight quickly, Deinosuchus grew slowly and became gigantic simply by continuing to get bigger while living to a relatively great age.

"How Deinosuchus attained sizes to rival its dinosaurian contemporaries, on which it undoubtedly preyed, has remained a mystery," say

Gregory Erickson and Christopher Brochu, of Stanford University in California and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, in the journal *Nature*.

The scientists studied the growth rings of Deinosuchus bones and found that the reptiles must have lived for at least 50 years, about 20 years more than living crocodiles, and considerably longer than the di-

nosaurus alive at the time. This suggests that the ancient crocodile grew slowly and steadily, like the modern-day cold-blooded reptiles cousins, rather than in spurts which is the pattern seen in today's warm-blooded animals.

Fossil specimens of Deinosuchus excavated in Montana and Texas indicate that it grew up to 32 feet long and had huge jaws which were

capable of gripping animals as big as a rhinoceros.

"We're almost certain they fed occasionally on dinosaurs but there is also evidence that they ate large turtles because of puncture holes found in [turtle] shells which match the teeth of Deinosuchus," Dr Erickson said.

Dinosaurs' bones show that they went through a rapid period of growth in early life while

Deinosuchus grew at a modest 0.3 metres a year and over several decades rather than the five or ten years of modern crocodiles.

Dr Erickson said that Deinosuchus would have been among the longest-lived animals of prehistoric times. "Each Deinosuchus must have seen several generations of dinosaurs come and go," he said.

Vicar loses fight to keep his flock

A CONTROVERSIAL Anglican vicar yesterday lost a landmark legal case over a decision by his bishop to make a drastic cut in the size of his parish.

The Rev Ashley Cheesman, 46, broke down as he was told by three members of the Privy Council in Downing Street that they were upholding the Bishop of Leicester's decision to more than halve his 800-member parish in Gaulby.

The Manufacturing Science and Finance Union (MSF), which had supported Mr Cheesman, condemned the decision as an abuse of power by the Church of England that would enable it to remove any vicar without consulting either clergy or parishioners.

The judgment follows an acrimonious dispute between Mr Cheesman, a father of two, and his former bishop, the Right Rev Thomas Butler, who was recently made Bishop of Southwark. The pair clashed over deteriorating relations between Mr Cheesman and a number of his parishioners.

Mr Cheesman had said he was being ousted because of his unorthodox evangelical preaching. His new parish of just 300 people would dramatically cut

BY CAHAL MILMO

his income by reducing his earnings from funerals, christenings and weddings, he had said.

MSF general secretary Roger Lyons said: "The church abandoned attempts to reach a settlement with Mr Cheesman and used an administrative measure to effectively starve him out. His new parish will not provide sufficient income for a man with a wife and two children."

"This ruling means that the feudal system imposed on clergy has been formally upheld and they have no protection from unfair treatment by their employer. Every Church of England vicar should now be looking over his shoulder in the light of what has happened today."

Mr Lyons said Mr Cheesman was now "inconsolable".

The nine-month legal battle began after the Diocese of Leicester invoked the Church of England 1983 Pastoral Measures to reduce Mr Cheesman's seven-church rural parish.

The vicar, with the backing of the MSF's 1,500-member clergy section, appealed to the Privy Council, the highest court for ecclesiastical disputes.

In a split ruling by the Privy

Council's three-member panel - consisting of Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Sir Christopher Slade - it was decided that the church authorities had acted responsibly.

The chairman, Lord Lloyd, found in favour of Mr Cheesman but the other two found that the clergyman had no case under church rules.

Union officials argued that the judgment contradicted the Government's Employment Relations Bill currently going through Parliament, which contains a clause which gives clergy full employment rights.

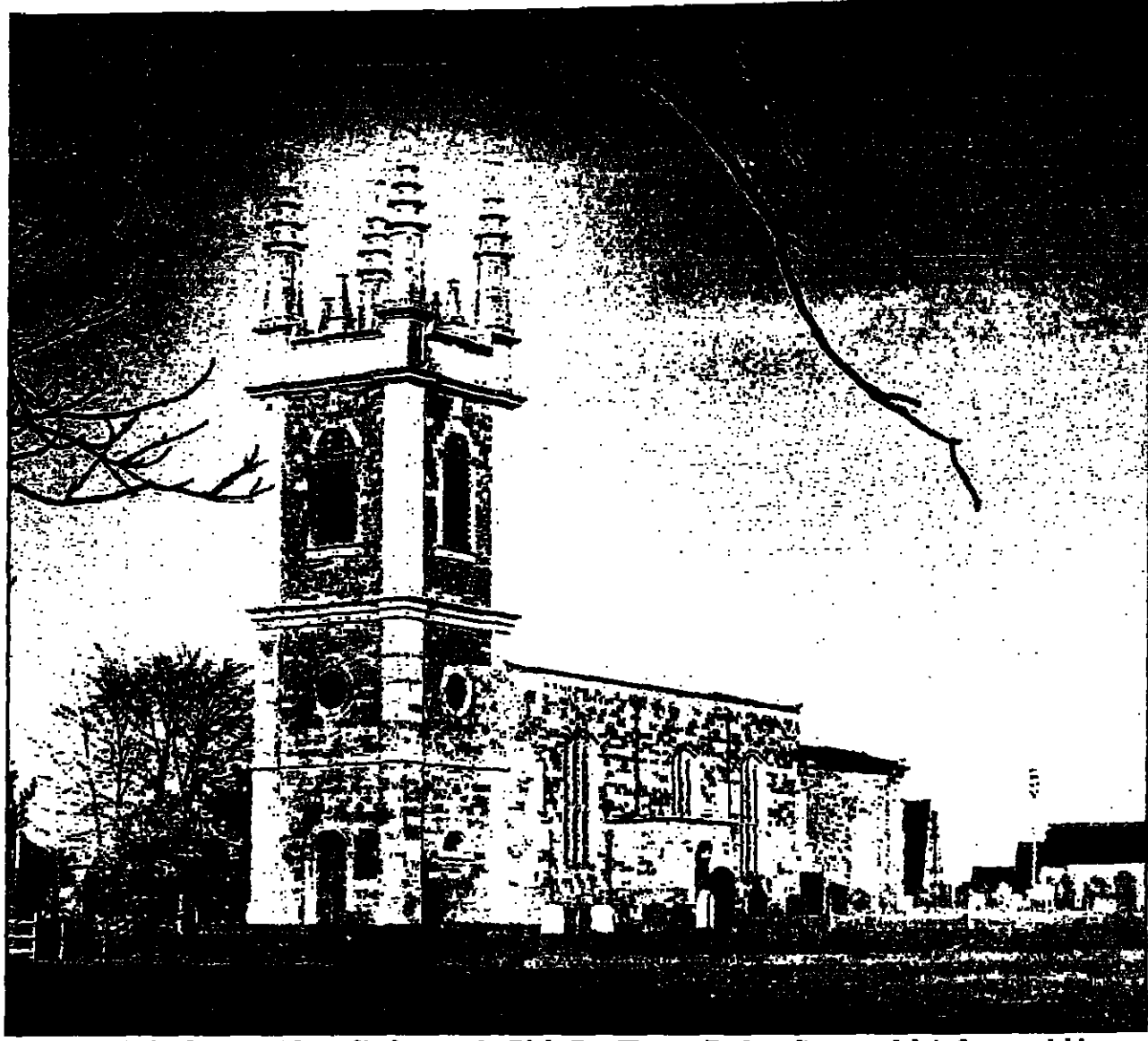
Under current church rules, bishops have been able to argue that clergy are employed by God and are paid a stipend to allow them to carry out their pastoral work.

Mr Cheesman, who effectively holds a lifelong legal freehold to his parish although the church can now dictate its size, receives a stipend of £15,000 with extra income coming from fees for special occasion services.

His dispute with a group of parishioners started in 1994 when they objected to his evangelical preaching style and began to hold prayer and hymn



The Rev Ashley Cheesman (top) clashed with former Bishop of Leicester, the Right Rev Thomas Butler, after complaints from parishioners about his evangelical preaching style at St Peter's Church in Gaulby, Leicestershire (above)



sessions in the churches without him. To try to halt the impromptu ceremonies, the vicar resorted to locking up the organ in one church.

Acrimony increased when Mr Cheesman invoked ancient church protocol allowing him to appoint church wardens. He

made his mother church warden at one of his churches - even though she lived 100 miles away in Suffolk.

An earlier attempt to remove the vicar by Bishop Butler, who has been replaced as Bishop of Leicester by the Right Rev Timothy Stevens, using

the 1977 Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure, ended because the church could not afford the £250,000 legal bill.

The Diocese of Leicester yesterday said it now hoped Mr Cheesman and his discontented former parishioners would be able to live side by side.

In a statement it said: "We believe this scheme will result in better arrangements for the cure of souls in the parishes involved. The strongly held and differing views of local church people have now been fully aired and considered through every process available. We

hope that all parties concerned will work towards making a success of the new arrangements."

The diocese said the new parish had been created to allow Mr Cheesman to continue his ministry.

Mr Cheesman was unavailable for comment yesterday.

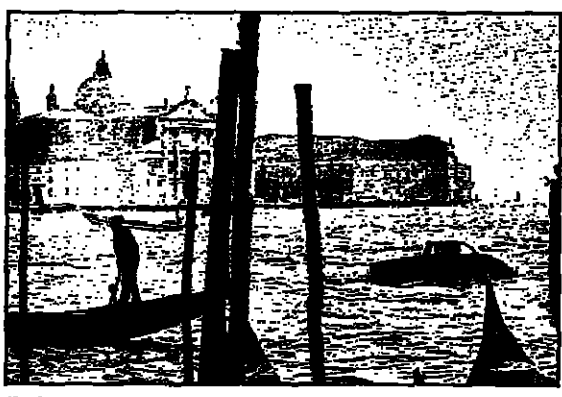
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Suharto family protests after UK refuses visas

THE FAMILY of Suharto, the former Indonesian president, has lodged a formal protest after several of its members were banned from entering Britain after an investigation was launched into the source of their wealth.

"This is so shameful that it is unbelievable," said Probojutejo, half-brother of Mr Suharto, who has written to the British embassy in Jakarta demanding an explanation for its refusal to grant visas to his wife and children. "For decades I've been going to Britain and I've always had a multiple-entry visa. Why am I suspected now? What is the reason? Is there any proof that I've done anything wrong or that I've stolen from Indonesia? There is none," he said yesterday.

Like several of the former president's children and close relations, Mr Probojutejo became a multi-millionaire

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Jakarta

through the award of franchises in clothes, plantations, construction and glass-making. He has been accused of abusing his connection to the former dictator to win contracts unfairly, which he denies.

The extended Suharto family put up for sale at least three large homes it owns in London, including two in Hampstead Garden Suburb, on sale for £2m and £1.95m.

The government of the new president, BJ Habibie, is conducting an investigation into the Suharto family's wealth, although few Indonesians believe charges are likely to be brought. Human-rights activists have called for the seizure of the Suhartos' overseas assets. During Mr Suharto's 31 years as president, family members regularly went to London, and



Suharto: Activists want his family's assets seized

British companies sought them out as business partners and "consultants". Mr Suharto's son Sigit was involved in joint ventures with Thames Water and BP.

As recently as last May the Jakarta consulate granted a

multiple re-entry visa to Mr Suharto's eldest daughter, known as Tutut. But after Mr Suharto's resignation later that month it changed its policy. Whitehall sources say several members of the extended family have been refused visas.

Mr Probojutejo was also a frequent visitor to London and owned a large house in Putney.

It has been put on the market, although Mr Probojutejo said yesterday that he had changed his mind about selling it. "At one point I wanted to sell it, because my children finished their education but now I found out how much it is worth I'm not selling it." He paid £90,000 for it in 1976 and it has been put on the market for £21.4m.

Yesterday a spokesman for the British Embassy in Jakarta said that its policy was not to discuss individual immigration cases.

Body lay in home for three weeks DNA gives clue to 15-year-old killing

A WOMAN OF 78 lay dead for up to three weeks at the home she shared with her family with the words "Help Me" scrawled on the walls of her bedroom, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mary Stansbie's relatives believed that she was asleep - and said they were used to her taking to her room for up to two months at a time. Mrs Stansbie, who suffered from dementia, died from a blood clot triggered by the fact she had not moved for at least 10 days. She was discovered by a district nurse at her home in Smethwick, West Midlands, on 18 December 1997.

Mrs Stansbie's daughter, Mary Widdows, told yesterday's hearing in Smethwick Council House that she checked on her mother a week before she was certified dead, and believed that she was

BY DAMIEN PEARSE

sleeping. She said she did not suspect there was anything wrong as her mother often took to her room for six to eight weeks at a stretch.

Maureen Capewell, a district nurse, told the inquest that she called at the house to visit Mrs Stansbie, who lived with her daughter and two granddaughters, and found her dead in bed. The words "Help Me" and "No Help" were written on the walls, she added.

Pathologist Dr Kenneth Scott told the hearing that Mrs Stansbie's death occurred no fewer than 10 days, and possibly as long as three weeks, before her body was found.

Sandwell South coroner Peter Turner recorded an open verdict.

DETECTIVES investigating the killing of a beauty consultant who was found dead in her bath 15 years ago have begun DNA testing on up to 300 people, after a breakthrough in forensic technology gave them a profile of their "prime suspect".

The cause of death for Cynthia Bolshaw, 50, was given as asphyxia. Among the people the police want to trace in connection with the case are more than 200 men named in her diaries. Evidence taken 9 October 1983 from the bungalow in Heswall, Wirral, where her body was found, has lain in a laboratory since then. But detectives hope that a recently recovered DNA profile may provide a major breakthrough in their hunt for her killer.

Meticulously kept diaries and address books containing

BY MARIA BRESLIN

details of more than 200 men were recovered from the house, but extensive interviews with former boyfriends failed to yield any clues.

Evidence showed that Mrs Bolshaw, who was divorced and a Christian Dior cosmetics adviser, drank sherry and brandy with a companion shortly before her death.

Superintendent Dave Smith, of Merseyside police, yesterday told a news conference at his force's headquarters that the DNA profile was a "significant" find. "Obviously, it is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle and the more pieces we put together, the more we can eliminate. As we eliminate people we should be able to get closer and closer to the killer."

CP 11/10/150

Serbs prepare for Kosovo onslaught

THE KOSOVO pendulum moved ominously from peace towards war last night, as the peace conference in Paris appeared close to collapse and Yugoslav forces massed in and around the province, ahead of a possible military onslaught against ethnic Albanian insurgents.

According to Pentagon officials in Washington, The Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has now deployed up to 18,000 troops into Kosovo, almost double the number agreed at last October's moribund ceasefire deal, while between 16,000 and 21,000 are waiting just across the border. In addition, at least eight of Belgrade's top-of-the-line M-84 battle tanks, updated versions of the Soviet-era T-72s, have been moved into the province for the first time.

General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme commander in Europe, claimed before the House Armed Services Committee that the build-up proved that Serb forces were preparing to "resume the conflict on a very large scale" should the second round of talks fail and Belgrade conclude that the alliance did not have the nerve to go through with its threats of airstrikes.

And last night in Paris, failure seemed the most likely - indeed the almost inevitable -

outcome. "Time and our patience are running out," James Rubin, US State Department spokesman said, warning that Serbia faced the choice "between peace and catastrophe". The response from the Serbs was as unbending as ever.

Far from inducing concessions, the promised signature by the Kosovo Albanians of the proposed accord has merely stiffened Belgrade's intransigence. Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian President who is heading the delegation in Paris, is still flatly refusing to sign the military annex allowing the stationing of 28,000 Nato-led peacekeepers. He has also demanded sweeping changes in the draft agreement, granting Kosovo wide autonomy.

Having seemed ready at the end of the inconclusive February conference at Rambouillet, the Serbs now object to a key provision of the draft, giving the Albanians the right to have their own police force. They are also seeking to reduce the powers of a future elected Kosovo assembly. "They want to amend 70 per cent of the package," an Albanian negotiator declared.

But with the international mediators representing the situation Contact Group of leading powers refusing all but the



most minor changes, deadlock is all but complete. Christopher Hill, the chief negotiator and architect of the draft accord, declared bleakly last night that he expected "no further progress".

If so, then the formal signing of the deal by the Albanians could take place as early as today, and barring a last minute cave-in by Belgrade, the talks could finish by the weekend. At that point Nato would again face the stark choice: to bomb or not to bomb. The US is adamant on the former. Mr Milosevic, supreme practitioner of brinkmanship, believes divisions in the alliance will produce the latter result.

Most immediately worrying, however, is the troop build-up on the ground. Alliance planners simply do not believe the Yugoslav President would take

the risk of attacking the 12,000 Western troops (3,800 of them British) already stationed in neighbouring Macedonia. Their immediate task, if talks fail, would be to carry out the evacuation of the unarmed international peace monitors in Kosovo. That would amount to a declaration of war on Nato.

But with spring only a week or two away, Mr Milosevic now has in place the wherewithal for a massive offensive at short notice against the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), that would eclipse the crackdowns of last year. That would provoke the "humanitarian disaster" Nato has vowed to prevent.

An independent forensic report has concluded that at least 40 unarmed civilians were killed in cold blood on or around 15 January in the Kosovo village of Racak. Dr Helena Ranta, the Finnish pathologist who led an EU forensic team, did not accuse the Serb authorities of a "massacre". But she noted that normal police investigation procedures were ignored and concluded that the victims were unarmed civilians. The Serb authorities suggested they were armed combatants, and that some died in cross fire.

Although 45 bodies were discovered in Racak, only 40 were presented to Dr Ranta's team for autopsy.



Three ethnic Albanian women comforting each other during the funeral in Grajkovac yesterday of four relatives found killed in the forest near the Kosovan village, 60km north-west of Pristina
Oleg Popov/Reuters



Selimi: New KLA chief

'We will fight until our last soldier dies'

WAR RAGES in the hills nearby, but Kosovo's guerrilla leader is relaxed and hospitable. Sitting at home beside his wood-burning stove, Sulejman Selimi is giving his first interview to foreign journalists since being named chief commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) last month.

He was chosen for the top job as his old friend Hashim Thaci,

known as commander "Snake", was being chosen to lead the Albanian delegation to the Rambouillet peace talks and again in Paris, where the KLA has agreed to sign the two-part peace deal.

The situation, Mr Selimi admits, is bad for the KLA.

Recently it has been forced out of several villages in the Shala region, east of the Drenica stronghold. But he does not seem unduly worried by the losses. "We are going to keep our positions and we are going to look after the civilians who have left those hills," says Mr Selimi, who is known as commander "Sultan".

Sultan is no intellectual but

he is revered by the KLA for his bravery. He says that, despite the dissent of a senior KLA commander - known as "Remi" - in the northern Podujevo region, the Kosovo rebels are united in support of the Western-backed peace plan for the province.

"There will always be someone who behaves as an extremist, but it's a small group and I don't see it as a problem," he says.

Asked about the proposed disarmament of the rebels, which worries many junior KLA officers, Sultan is sanguine. "If the Serb forces withdraw, we will not need our weapons any more," he says. "It was never our desire to take up weapons and fight."

And Mr Selimi, who was a

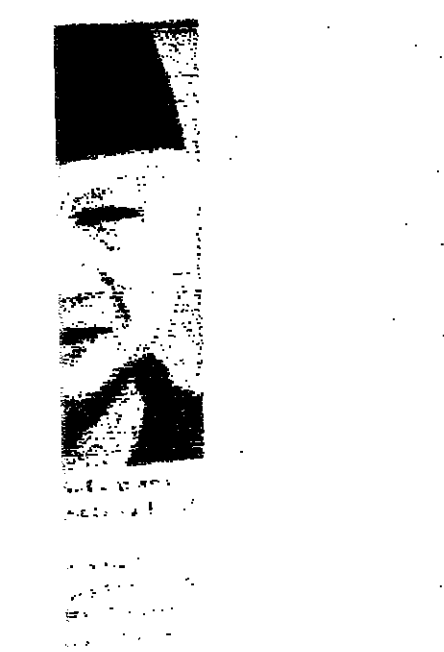
student at the University in Mitrovica before taking up arms, has no desire to hold office in an autonomous and peaceful Kosovo. "When I started to fight, I didn't know I would live for so long," he says. "I have been in danger many times, and I thought I was not going to survive."

In a free Kosovo, "I am not going to hold any post. I want to

be a free civilian, and for my people to have full human rights."

The KLA chief believes that the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, will eventually sign the peace deal. "If they see Nato is serious, they are going to accept everything in the end," he says. But, "We are going to stay here and if they come, we will fight. And we will fight until our last soldier dies."

protests s visas



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Finally, the Eurocrats accept reality

IT TOOK MORE than 36 hours after the drama of the European Commission's mass resignation for the full meaning of the word "resign" to fully sink in on the top floors of the Breydel building, the Commission's headquarters in Brussels.

To the amazement of some of her colleagues, the private office of Edith Cresson, the shamed French commissioner at the centre of the crisis, was still behaving as if nothing had happened. On Tuesday evening they circulated the detail of new proposals relating to her research and education portfolio. Under normal circumstances the plans were to have been considered by the Commission at its regular weekly meeting yesterday.

"I could not believe my eyes" said a member of another commissioner's entourage. "It was as if they were still in denial".

By lunchtime yesterday Mr Santer and most members of his team had finally accepted the new reality. In contrast to the previous day's indignant press conference where he slated the sleaze inquiry team's

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

findings, Mr Santer did not speak to the press at all yesterday. In fact he appeared to have been muzzled by his colleagues. Karel Van Miert, the commissioner for competition policy flanked by Sweden's Anita Gradin and Italy's Mario Monti emerged instead.

Taking firm charge of the situation Mr Van Miert, a popular, no-nonsense Belgian with a strong political reputation, told a press conference there was no question of it being business as usual. The planned publication of a major white paper on overhauling EU competition law was one of the first casualties of the resignations, he said. It would be shelved.

He said the Commission would discharge its legal obligations: opening or closing state aid inquiries, or organising tenders for grain and sugar exports, one of the Commission's more arcane duties under the Common Agricultural Policy. It would also give "a helping hand" to EU gov-

ernments and the European Parliament to reach agreements on reforming the Union's finances and the CAP, but no new initiatives which might be deemed political in character would be tabled. "We must not give the impression we are sulking" Mr Van Miert said. "Even if the Commission has resigned we cannot block the work of the European Union".

Mr Van Miert was one of those who also moved to distance himself from the tainted Jacques Santer, pointing out that it was "totally unfair" to tar everyone with the same brush.

Earlier, as they arrived for their regular weekly meeting, the twenty commissioners were again besieged by a scrum of reporters and TV crews. "No it is not business as usual," Neil Kinnock told them. "It can't be. We resigned on Monday night."

Bizarrely in what smacked of bolting the stable door after the horse had bolted, the commissioners did discuss and approve new proposals for tackling fraud. Announcing the measures



Edith Cresson and Joao de Deus Pinheiro at the commissioners' weekly meeting, which went ahead as usual in Brussels yesterday AP

Mr Monti, the commissioner for the single market, allowed himself a small smile. "I think you might find this a little... relevant," he said.

Even more bizarre was the spectacle of the flamboyant

Irish commissioner Padraig Flynn throwing a party on the eighth floor of the building.

Not one to be put off by the atmosphere of mourning all around him Mr Flynn invited staff and fellow commissioners

to a feast of Guinness, Irish Coffee and smoked salmon in celebration of St Patrick's Day. Mr Flynn entertained his guests with a rendition of "The West's Awake" a ballad about English oppression in Ireland. Sir Leon

Brittan, who is being tipped by some as a potential interim president of the Commission, laughed loudly when Mr Flynn reached the dramatic climax of the song.

Mr Flynn was not mentioned

in the fraud report but is unlikely to be reappointed to the Commission by Dublin because of separate allegations relating to a £50,000 gift from a builder when he was an Irish government minister some years ago.

Why no one wants strong leadership in Brussels

YESTERDAY THE phrases tripped off the tongues of almost every EU leader: "Time for strong, proven leadership... root-and-branch reform... appointments on the basis of merit... a Europe accountable to the people." But do the heads of Europe's national governments really want what they say they want?

The clamour surrounding

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

the resignation of the Brussels Commission has obscured an essential truth. Contrary to impressions, the demise of the president, Jacques Santer, was not nemesis visited upon an over-mighty supranational executive which was steadily usurping more power from member states.

Over the last decade and a half, in a process that began under the vilified Jacques Delors, power has shifted from Brussels back towards the national governments. More clearly than ever, the dominant institution within the EU is not the Commission but the Council of Ministers. Mr Santer was a weak president - precisely what the national gov-

ernments wanted in 1994 when they chose him as a compromise candidate.

This week's upheavals have been presented as a victory for the more open and transparent political culture of the northern member states over the laxer, more clique-ridden ways of the South; or at a grossly oversimplified level, of the Protestant over the Catholic way of doing

things. But such a victory could have unintended consequences, above all for Britain.

A stronger, more streamlined and credible EU executive would be the last thing any sensible Eurosceptic would want, depriving him of his easiest and most rewarding target. But governments too, for all their rhetoric, may get more than they bargained for.

For them, the ideal is a squeaky clean and uncontroversial - but above all submissive - Brussels. But a more accountable Commission, with higher quality personnel and greater public scrutiny (either via a permanent independent auditing board or an invigorated European Parliament in Strasbourg) is likely to mean a more confident and therefore

powerful commission. Like it or not, governments may find the pendulum swinging back in the opposite direction.

And one quiet revolution could lead to another. The top posts in Europe have generally gone to superannuated domestic politicians or ones who no longer fit into their own national systems. They are nominated by national governments

who give the president virtually no say in the matter.

But a Commission chief of real standing, with the right to choose his own people, could attract younger politicians to the EU. If so, Brussels could become an integral part of a national political career, rather than a belated appendage. That too might be not exactly as member governments intend.

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Schroder scours capitals for new leader

BY DIANE KARACS
in Berlin
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

HOPPING FROM one European capital to the next, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder tried to save Germany's EU presidency from collapse as his grip on events in Brussels and Bonn was spinning out of control.

After his initial refusal to recognise the resignation of the European Commission as a "crisis", he performed a U-turn overnight. By the time he arrived in Vienna yesterday morning he was ready to proclaim that Jacques Santer, Commission President, had to go. "We must show our ability to act fast," Mr Schröder said. He did not offer any candidates for the job, beyond ruling out Mr Santer.

"We must show we are able to draw from the resignation of the Commission conclusions in terms of substance and personnel," the Chancellor added, calling for "more transparency, more openness and internal and external controls on the use of funds".

But Germany is burdened with the conflicting tasks of organising the EU summit in Berlin next week, and of filling the vacuum in Brussels. As Mr Schröder shuffled his priorities, he was in danger of failing on both fronts. Bonn still wants the Commission to soldier on until after the summit, so that all governments can



Romano Prodi

The former Italian prime minister is the strongest contender for the Commission's top job. One reason is that his former ally in the Olive Tree coalition, the current Prime Minister, Massimo d'Alema, is anxious to see him out of domestic politics.



Javier Solana

The former Spanish foreign minister has won praise since taking over as Secretary-General of Nato from Willy Claes of Belgium. He is a Socialist, and a southern European, which is one of the unofficial requirements of the job.

cialist, is also considered a strong candidate.

Mr Schröder said he would be happy if a joint proposal on the new president could be presented shortly after the Berlin summit. "We must make it clear... the EU remains capable to act, that member-states, through compromise, succeed in [finalising] the financial architecture that will stand firm for the coming years," he said.

Behind all this lurks uncertainty. The German sense of urgency about a breakthrough in Berlin is not shared by other European governments. And as Mr Schröder is juggling with several European balls he is being distracted by debilitating rows in his own government.

After the trouble with Oskar Lafontaine last week, it was the Greens' turn to cause problems yesterday. "Red-Green as a reform project is dead," said Jürgen Trittin, the second-most powerful Green in the government.

Correction: In an article carried in later editions of *The Independent* on Tuesday headlined "Costly Fiascos" we mistakenly referred to Essex University as being in receipt of £40,000 via the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci vocational training programme.

The actual recipient was in fact Exeter University and not the University of Essex. We apologise for any confusion this has caused.

concentrate on EU institutional reforms. In Mr Schröder's absence, his cabinet reiterated yesterday that Germany wanted to clinch in Berlin an agreement on farm subsidies.

With the Commission now urging a rapid end to the power

vacuum, it seems likely Germany will organise a special summit of heads of government in April to decide on the succession. Mr Schröder indicated in Athens yesterday that if a new president is appointed then, it should be a permanent replacement rather than a caretaker who would stand down at the end of the year.

There are two scenarios. One is to appoint a new president in weeks who would steer the Commission, made up of most of the existing team, until

December. The other is that an entire new set of commissioners would be appointed soon and reappointed to serve for five years from 2000. The choice is complicated by the fact that MEPs will want to vet all 20 Commission members.

Another complication is that it is still not clear whether legally a commissioner who resigns can, under the EU treaty, be reappointed by his or her government.

Romano Prodi, former Italian prime minister, is emerging

as front-runner for the top job. He has received signs of endorsement from London and Germany. As a southern European, he would meet one unofficial requirement of the job.

Javier Solana of Spain, secretary-general of Nato and a so-

Brussels

...the trouble report but likely to be disappointed by the Commission's decision to appoint a new president. The Commission's decision to appoint a new president is likely to be disappointed by the Commission's decision to appoint a new president.



Jacques Chirac, who is facing allegations that Paris employees worked for his political party. Brian Harris

Letter links Chirac to party pay fraud

A FRENCH judge has uncovered written evidence which directly links President Jacques Chirac with the misappropriation of public cash to fund his party, the RPR, six years ago.

The evidence, in the form of a letter signed by Mr Chirac, while he was mayor of Paris, could lead to a heated legal and constitutional debate. Can a French president be formally investigated or prosecuted while in office? One constitutional body has already pronounced - without being asked its opinion - that he cannot.

Embarrassingly for Mr Chirac the question may now have to be argued in public

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

before the country's highest appeal court, within the next few months. The three-year-old investigation of the existence of up to 300 "fictitious employees" on the payroll of the Paris town hall in the early Nineties has been creeping closer to the President for more than a year.

It is alleged that the phantom officials were actually working full-time for the neo-Gaullist RPR, then campaigning to make its president - Mr Chirac - President of France.

The latest twist of the saga, leaked yesterday to the news-

paper *Libération*, could not come at a more damaging time for the President. He is being linked, in effect, to frauds more serious and systematic than those which forced the resignation of the European Commission earlier this week.

The investigating judge, Patrick Desmure, is said to have assembled considerable evidence that the RPR was staffed by people paid by the taxpayers of Paris. He has already started a formal investigation of the former prime minister, Alain Juppé, who was a senior official in both the town hall and the RPR at the time. Mr Juppé faces pos-

sible charges of embezzlement and illegal use of public funds.

There has been previous evidence, including a scribbled note on a Juppé letter, tentatively suggesting that Mr Chirac - as both mayor and head of the RPR - knew what was going on. But there has been no direct evidence, no "smoking gun".

Libération says judge Desmure now has a copy of a letter signed by Mr Chirac in December 1993. In the letter Mr Chirac, as mayor, recommends the promotion, just before retirement, of a town hall official, Madeleine Farard, to improve her pension rights. So far,

perfectly above board. However, Mr Chirac goes on to say that Ms Farard earned this bonus because of her "exemplary devotion" and "delicate duties" working with Jean-Claude Pasty, now a Euro MP then on the agricultural staff of the RPR. Ms Farard's brief was to "maintain good contacts with agricultural organisations" - hardly a priority for the City of Paris - but a crucial electoral constituency for a party with a strong rural base.

In effect, the letter suggests, for the first time in documentary form, that Mr Chirac was well aware of the staffing of the RPR with city "employees".

The Elysée Palace refused to comment yesterday.

According to the newspaper *Le Monde* yesterday, the judge Desmure has formally sought a ruling from the public prosecutor's office in Nanterre in the Paris suburbs. If the judge is given approval to investigate Mr Chirac, the issue would probably go before an appeal court and then the supreme appeal court, the Cour de Cassation.

If the prosecutor and judge decide, on constitutional grounds, not to investigate the President, a Green MP intends to lodge an appeal process through the same courts.

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Leading Israeli guilty of fraud

THE LEADER of Israel's third largest party was found guilty of corruption and misuse of government funds yesterday, as his supporters sobbed and shouted angrily outside the court.

Aryeh Deri, once the rising star of Israeli politics and still an important power broker, was found guilty of receiving \$167,000 in bribes and diverting funds to favoured institutions when he was interior minister in the late Eighties. Throughout his five-year trial he has remained head of Shas, the

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Jerusalem

ultra-Orthodox party backed mainly by Jews of Middle Eastern and North African origin.

His supporters immediately accused the court of bias against the Sephardim (Middle Eastern Jews) and said Mr Deri would remain head of Shas. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime minister, who needs the support of Shas in the election on 17 May, asked for calm in the face of threatened street



Aryeh Deri, leader of the Shas party, with supporters in Jerusalem yesterday after being convicted of bribe-taking, fraud and breaching the public trust

demonstrations. Mr Deri is to appeal.

The verdict is likely to deepen the chasm between Sephardi and Ashkenazi (European) Jews in Israel, with the former

feeling that they are being unfairly treated by the elite. His supporters argued yesterday that if Mr Deri had taken any money it was to benefit those who needed it. A banner outside

the court read: "Kicking the Sephardi Ashkenazi style."

Mr Deri's meteoric career faltered in 1990 when allegations of corruption surfaced. Up to then he was a consummate

political organiser, combining religious fervour and social radicalism. He has always been supported by Ovadia Yosef, the movement's charismatic spiritual leader. He has stood by him

throughout the trial. Even Sephardi who believe Mr Deri took money think that he did no worse than many Israeli politicians of European origin who have escaped criminal charges. Beni Elbaz, a Deri supporter standing outside the court, said: "Even if they put him in solitary confinement he will remain the leader of Shas."

By portraying their leader as a victim of the Ashkenazi establishment, Shas hopes to gain votes at the polls. In a message Mr Deri asked his supporters to show restraint on the streets but to make clear their view of the verdict on election day.

Although Mr Deri could face up to 30 years in prison the appeal process will be prolonged. During this period Mr Deri will remain a key player in Israeli politics and he is increasingly close to Mr Netanyahu.

Although Mr Deri is religious, he is not a fanatic. He was part of the government of Yitzhak Rabin, the former prime minister, before he was forced to resign by the court.

The unrelenting legal pursuit of Mr Deri over so many years has fed the Sephardi sense that they are an under-class whom the Ashkenazi elite are determined to exclude from power.

Up to the last minute many Shas loyalists expected Mr Deri to be found innocent, or guilty of lesser charges. In the event the court accepted almost all the prosecution's case on the illegal funneling of money to religious institutions to which Mr Deri was connected. It dismissed Mr Deri's explanation of how he received \$167,000 for his personal use.

Hundreds of police were posted around the court yesterday as the verdict was announced. Shas denounced reports of possible disturbances as an attempt to blacken their name.

The trial was one of the longest in Israel's history, generating 41,000 pages of transcript. The length of the proceedings were partly the result of the almost endless delaying tactics of Mr Deri and his three fellow accused.

India 'stalling inquiry' into Christian deaths

ALMOST TWO months after an Australian missionary, Graham Staines, and his two young sons were burned to death in the east Indian state of Orissa, the Supreme Court judge appointed by the government to investigate the atrocity has complained the authorities are preventing him doing his job.

Mr Staines, who worked among lepers in Orissa for 30 years, was surrounded in his vehicle by a mob, allegedly whipped up by a member of Bajrang Dal, an extreme Hindu nationalist fringe organisation, on the night of 22 January. He and his sons, Philip and Timothy, tried to escape from the vehicle but were forced inside and it was set on fire.

Three central-government ministers were sent to the remote tribal village, and one of them, the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, promised that the commission of inquiry would get to the bottom of the crime. The commission was set up on 27 January, headed by a supreme court judge, Justice Devener Pratap Wadhwa.

But on Monday he and his team met the Indian press to explain, in the words of one of them, "Why, in spite of six weeks having passed... no substantial progress has been achieved." The judge asked: "Is the government serious that we should conduct this commis-

BY PETER POPHAM in New Delhi

sion?" The premises provided by the government were three rooms that could not be used, as they were a dump for old furniture. Other rooms were monopolised by the secretariat set up to celebrate India's 50th anniversary of independence. That finished last year but the minister in charge - by coincidence, perhaps, one of the three dispatched to Orissa, Murli Manohar Joshi, a hard-line Hindu nationalist - decided unilaterally that the work of the secretariat should continue for another couple of years so they could celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's becoming a republic too.

"The government has failed to provide the necessary infrastructure," Mr Justice Wadhwa said, adding "Further proceedings will only be conducted after the infrastructure is provided." The commission has not been permitted to hire a secretary or other staff. One police officer has been provided to assist with the inquiry, although four were promised.

The commission counsel, Gopal Subramaniam, added: "There has been no adequate or serious attempt on the part of the government to appreciate the keenness, sincerity and intensity with which the commission wished to proceed."

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Orphans in Egypt 'killed for organs'

AUTHORITIES IN Egypt are investigating claims that a welfare organisation has murdered homeless orphans in its care and sold their body parts to private hospitals for transplants.

BY PETER POPHAM
in New Delhi

The organisation, in Minya in the Nile delta, is accused of systematically killing children under the age of 13. The parliamentarians, who are from the same region, said their suspicions were aroused when 25 out of 32 children at the

home died in the space of three months.

The Ministry of Social Affairs found the deaths were due to "gross negligence" and there was evidence of financial and administrative irregularities.

But the MPs claim the orphans were killed for profit, with large sums of money involved and with the knowledge and collaboration of certain powerful figures.

The organs of the children, they say, are on sale for up to \$30,000 (£19,000).

The accusations come amid political conflict over organ transplants. At present such operations, with the exception of those involving corneas, are banned. Legislation is due to be

introduced soon to remove most restrictions and opponents of the reform fear it will lead to widespread abuse. They cite past cases of donors being exploited to provide transplants in Egypt for wealthy Gulf Arabs.

An official at the Interior Ministry in Cairo said: "They [the MPs] are saying there is corruption and the killings are

taking place with the knowledge of important people and nothing is being done because these children are poor. The problem is there is not much regulation of these welfare organisations."

There have been reports in the past about alleged black-market trading in organs in other countries. A recent investigation said that 800 children vanished in 12 months in Honduras, central America, with the suspicion that they had been killed for transplants.

The Chinese have also been accused of trading in body parts of executed prisoners. Last year a prominent dissident, Harry Wu, presented United States congressmen with photographs which he said proved prisoners were routinely cut up by doctors after being shot.

In New York last year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested two Chinese nationals, one a former state prosecutor, who were attempting to arrange a "guaranteed" supply of 50 kidneys a year.

Punks who make a favourite uncle's day

FRONTLINE
RAWALPINDI

COLONEL SHAHID Hamid Jaffrey is a rather unlikely looking "Dirty Harry". With a smiling, jowly face, prominent nose, greying hair and slight paunch he looks more like a favourite uncle than one of Pakistan's top drug cops. Only his slightly crumpled, slightly dodgy tweed jacket - and the pistol he keeps in a shoulder holster at all times - link him to the world of shoot-outs, busts and car chases.



Col Jaffrey: Demanding respect from the drug dealers he tracks down

From his office among the barracks and mess halls of the cantonment area of the bustling northern Pakistani town of Rawalpindi the colonel directs much of Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force - the elite body tasked with intercepting the thousands of tons of heroin and cannabis that come through the country heading to Africa and the West each year.

Col Jaffrey is not a policeman but a soldier. The police turned out to be too corrupt to combat the drugs barons so the army - well-trained, well-equipped and well-officer - was brought in. Many of the soldiers who make up the bulk of the Colonel's unit have, like their commander, seen active service. They need to have done. When the Anti-Narcotics Force goes on a raid it is a military operation, complete with armoured cars and heavy machine guns. Last

the Colonel threw a cordon around Jatti and, despite heavy resistance, combed the village until they found their men.

The fruits of his team's labours are stored in a strongroom near the Colonel's office. In it are several dozen sacks full of hashish, about a ton in all, picked up on its way from Afghanistan. It is worth about \$2m. Nearby are drums containing the chemicals needed to make heroin seized in Karachi.

In another room are the props of smuggling. One is a blonde wig, which a Nigerian woman thought might hide a few hundred grams of heroin. There is a hollowed out cricket bat, complete with an Imran Khan logo, nuts and bolts with the centres drilled through, and even children's books with pages removed.

For all his avuncular appearance, Colonel Jaffrey may yet have the makings of a screen hero. He has a passion for "the movies", particularly Ben Hur, Anthony and Cleopatra and The Ten Commandments. He likes modern films too, such as Heat - a recent Hollywood cops and robbers production known for being very loud with an over the top shoot-out. "It was a great film," says the Colonel, with a solid, military nod of approval. "I learned a lot from it."

JASON BURKE



The Cirque du Soleil, the Canadian circus team, on the Chinese Poles in Melbourne yesterday

Reuters

Artists protest over piracy

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

HONG KONG'S cinemas were closed for business yesterday for the first time since the Second World War as part of a protest against software piracy. The industry in pirated films, music discs and computer programs is now believed to be bigger than the legal trade.

The piracy plague is rampant throughout Asia but elicits its most concern in Hong Kong, home to the region's biggest film industry and a centre of popular music.

Local artists are losing millions in royalty revenue while cinema receipts slipped by 60 per cent last year as a result of the competition with pirated films. Within days of their release in Hollywood pirated versions of the latest films are in the pirate shops for just over one pound.

While cinemas closed, radio stations had music black outs and some of Hong Kong's most famous entertainers, including action film star Jackie Chan, took to the streets at the head of a 2,000-strong demonstration.

Breaking with his usual practice, Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa emerged from his office to receive a petition from the demonstrators and assure them the government is serious about cracking down on piracy.

Protests visas



gives clue to R-old killing

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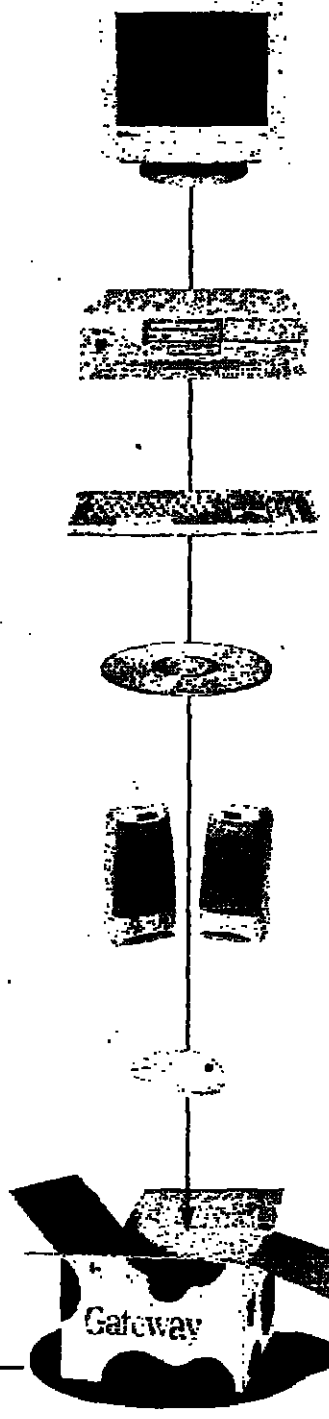


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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Shield clinches Norwegian deal

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Scottish drug development group, yesterday finally clinched its troubled £186m merger with its Norwegian rival Axis. The UK company, which specialises in heart-disease tests, was forced to reduce its stake in the combined group after a revolt by two Axis investors. Under the new terms, the all-paper merger will leave Shield shareholders with 45.6 per cent of the enlarged entity, with investors in Axis retaining 54.4 per cent. The previous plan proposed a 62/38 per cent split in Shield's favour. The Dundee-based company also announced a £12m rights issue to pay for some merger-related costs.

Bid battle for Wace hits up



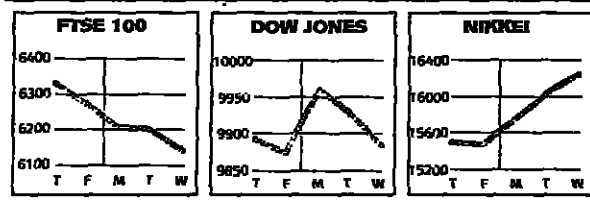
THE BID battle for Wace, the graphics group led by chief executive Derek Ashley (pictured), hit up last night, with Applied Graphics Technology insisting it was still in the game after the rival US graphics group Schawk secured the agreement of Wace's board to a higher £63.3m cash bid for the company yesterday. Schawk had agreed to raise its

original cash and paper offer by 14 per cent after AGT waded in to the battle with a £57m cash bid last week, gatecrashing the deal agreed with Wace in January. Wace's advisers, Lehman Brothers, said the new Schawk offer was worth 11 per cent more than last week's AGT bid. AGT is considering raising its offer.

Regent Inns merger on course

REGENT INNS expects to complete its £270m merger with the rival pub group SFI within "the next few weeks," the company says. Delays in completing due diligence have put the timetable back slightly but talks between the two parties are said to be progressing well. The merger is expected to be a "no premium" deal with Regent shareholders likely to hold about 60 per cent of the shares in the enlarged group.

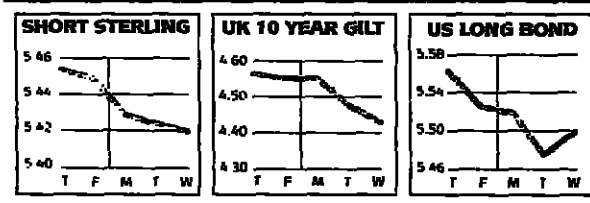
STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graphs at 5pm

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5140.60	-51.30	-0.99	6365.40	4999.20	2.66
FTSE 250	5485.30	-34.40	-0.62	5970.90	4247.60	3.11
FTSE 350	2929.90	-27.60	-0.93	3024.90	2210.40	2.73
FTSE All Share	2836.90	-25.41	-0.89	2923.83	2143.53	2.76
FTSE SmallCap	2374.90	-0.90	-0.04	2793.90	1834.40	3.46
FTSE Biotech	1296.60	4.40	0.34	1512.10	1045.20	4.21
FTSE AIM	849.40	-3.90	-0.46	1146.50	761.30	1.11
FTSE Europe 100	2888.87	-19.10	-0.66	3079.27	2018.13	2.05
FTSE Europe 300	1245.85	-9.40	-0.75	1332.07	880.63	1.96
Dow Jones	9868.68	-50.51	-0.51	10001.78	7400.30	1.60
Nikkei	16268.11	195.29	1.22	17111.59	12787.90	0.87
Hang Seng	10940.07	28.82	0.26	11926.16	6544.79	3.26
Dax	5077.43	-17.20	-0.34	6217.83	3833.71	1.71
S&P 500	1295.02	-11.84	-0.91	1311.11	925.32	1.24
Nasdaq	2424.32	14.98	0.61	2593.44	1377.02	0.28
Sensex 300	6590.70	-29.12	-0.44	7837.70	5320.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	10557.46	-100.93	-0.95	12339.14	4579.68	5.89
Belgium Be20	3342.92	-5.72	-0.17	3713.21	2695.26	2.10
Amsterdam AEX	539.97	-0.67	-0.12	600.65	366.58	1.90
France CAC 40	4170.01	-16.34	-0.39	4404.94	2881.21	1.78
Milan MIB30	3664.00	-163.00	-4.44	39170.00	24175.00	1.11
Madrid IBSX 35	10119.10	-84.80	-0.83	10989.80	6669.90	1.72
India Overall	3257.60	0.00	0.00	538.00	373.07	1.57
S Korea Comp	600.52	-1.31	-0.22	651.85	277.87	0.37
Australia ASX	2977.80	-14.40	-0.48	2996.30	2386.70	3.10

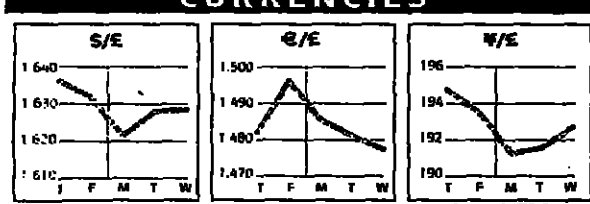
INTEREST RATES



at 5pm, German money market rates equal euro rate

Money Market Rates	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr. Chg.	10 year	Yr. Chg.	Long bond	Yr. Chg.
UK	5.42	-2.13	5.37	-2.15	4.43	-1.52	4.43	-1.42
US	5.00	-0.69	5.28	-0.50	5.13	0.43	5.50	0.39
Japan	0.19	-0.52	0.23	-0.45	1.79	0.02	2.63	0.28
Germany	3.04	-0.47	3.03	-0.70	3.94	-0.93	4.92	-0.53

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Pound	at 5pm	Change	% Chg	Dollar	at 5pm	Change	% Chg
Dollar	1.6295	+0.54c	1.6762	Sterling	0.6137	-0.20p	0.3966
Euro	1.4782	-1.01c	1.4679	Euro	0.9072	-18.45c	0.8571
Yen	192.66	+0.97	215.94	Yen	118.12	+0.14	128.88
S Index	102.80	0.00	106.80	S Index	108.00	0.00	108.80

OTHER INDICATORS

Commodities	Close	Chg	% Chg	Index	Close	Chg	% Chg
Brent Oil (\$)	12.63	0.30	11.18	GDP 115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	284.15	0.70	292.00	RPI 163.40	2.40	159.37	Mar
Silver (\$)	5.04	-0.01	6.07	Base Rates	5.00	7.25	Oil at 5pm

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5141	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.47
Austria (schillings)	19.74	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1689
Belgium (francs)	58.08	New Zealand (\$)	2.9705
Canada (\$)	2.4175	Norway (kroner)	12.37
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8309	Portugal (escudos)	286.63
Denmark (kroner)	10.76	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9307
Finland (markka)	8.5809	Singapore (\$)	2.5685
France (francs)	9.4451	South Africa (rand)	9.7171
Germany (marks)	2.8220	Spain (pesetas)	238.84
Greece (drachma)	462.92	Sweden (kronor)	13.02
Hong Kong (\$)	12.23	Switzerland (francs)	2.3109
Ireland (pounds)	1.1299	Thailand (bahts)	55.20
India (rupees)	62.07	Turkey (liras)	57.1847
Israel (shekels)	6.0505	USA (\$)	1.5901
Italy (lira)	2796		
Japan (yen)	189.39		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8723		
Malta (lira)	0.6169		

Source: Thomas Cook

Commerzbank seeks stake in Fleming

GERMANY'S Commerzbank, has let it be known in the City that it is ready to offer up to £24 a share for a majority stake in Robert Fleming, a price that would value the firm, one of the few remaining independent British investment banks, at more than £4bn.

The offer could be structured to allow the management, under the chairman John Manser and members of the Fleming family, to remain as shareholders.

It would, however, reopen the rift between those within the Fleming family who support the board's determination to remain independent at all costs and others who would like to sell provided they can get the right price.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

using the model of Jupiter, its UK fund management business which is 25 per cent owned by the management. "We are not all big bad Germans," one banker said.

Fleming said the bank was not in takeover talks. The Fleming family remain the biggest shareholders with some 30 per cent, which is held through a variety of trusts. However, the family are not united in backing the board, even though a number of Flemings retain senior management

positions within the firm.

The sources say that Commerzbank, which tried and failed five years ago to acquire Smith New Court, the stockbroker, is keen not to overpay. The jury is still out within the City over where the sums spent by Fleming over the last 18 months building up its own global equities business from scratch will pay off.

Minority shareholders in Fleming, who have been agitating for the bank to sell out, say that the price being talked

about over the last fortnight is significantly higher than the £30 a share being suggested when Commerzbank was first rumoured to be showing an interest late last year.

However, they add that some senior Fleming executives have been saying over the last few days that the asset management side of the business and Fleming's Save & Prosper retail brand have acquired a greater rarity value following the £1.9bn takeover of M&G by the Prudential. The executives

think the firm should hold out for £30 a share, which would value the group at £1.6bn.

The position of the Hong Kong-based Kiewit family also remains uncertain. Following the deal last December to unravel the Jardine Fleming joint venture, the family holds 17 per cent. Bankers say the deal was seen at the time as bolstering the position of those opposed to the sale. However, even C&A a share would represent a premium of around 60 per cent to the price they paid.



The famous Defender is among the car models BMW plans to build in Kaliningrad

Land Rovers to be built in Russia

BMW IS to start building Land Rovers in Russia from this summer under a plan unveiled yesterday for a 10-fold increase in sales of the famous four-wheel-drive vehicle into the Russian market, writes Michael Harrison.

The German car group is investing DM125m (£43m) in new production facilities and an expansion of its dealer network in Russia.

The new plant, to be run in

collaboration with the local company Avtorot, will assemble the Land Rover Defender and the BMW 5 series from knock-down kits supplied from Britain and Germany.

Production is planned to rise to 10,000 a year in the medium term, of which 1,000 to 2,000 will be Land Rovers. At present Land Rover sales in Russia run at just 100 a year.

The Russian new car market is forecast to grow by 50 per

cent over the next three years from 1 million to 1.5 million by 2002, and BMW said the outlook for the car market was "extremely promising".

The new plant will be located in Kaliningrad, a city which qualifies for special excise duty exemptions under Russian law. The expansion will create 1,300 jobs, of which 1,000 will be in the enlarged dealer network that will sell the Rover range alongside BMW's.

Sky and United fall on fears of blocked bid

THE OUTCOME of British Sky Broadcasting's £223m takeover bid for Manchester United was cast into doubt yesterday after a press report suggested that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had recommended the deal be blocked.

Shares in BSkyB and Manchester United fell sharply on the report, which said the MMC had ruled that the deal was against the public interest.

The MMC's report was passed to the Department of Trade and Industry on Friday. Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, is expected to rule on the deal within the next few weeks.

Rival media groups and associations of Manchester United fans have argued that the combination of Britain's dominant sports broadcaster and leading football club was anti-competitive and should be blocked.

The news emerged as Manchester United prepared for the second leg of their crucial European Champions' League quarter-final against Inter

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Milan last night. Spokesmen for the club and BSkyB refused to comment on the report, which they claimed was "speculation". A spokesman for the Prime Minister said he doubted DTI officials were responsible for it. "I don't believe the story," he said.

The report, citing sources close to the Department of Trade and Industry, said the MMC had concluded that undertakings offered by BSkyB and Manchester United designed to address competition concerns were unworkable.

News of the leak sparked a feverish hunt to find the source. It is believed that apart from Mr Byers only four officials at the DTI have actually seen the report. However, a copy is understood to have been sent to the Office of Fair Trading, leading some observers to suggest that the leak may have emanated from sources within the competition watchdog.

Objections to the takeover have centred on the possibi-

ty that Manchester United might be able to pass information on rival bids for Premier League television rights to BSkyB. The two companies have tried to ease these fears by offering undertakings about their behaviour in future rights auctions. However, responsibility for policing these undertakings would fall to the OFT.

A spokesman for the Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association said the group, which has lobbied vociferously against the takeover, was encouraged by the news. He added: "We believe Stephen Byers must make an early decision and put an end to this speculation, which doesn't do Manchester United or football any good."

Speculation about the outcome of the bid has been rife since the MMC completed its report last week. People close to BSkyB and Manchester United have already expressed their surprise at the hostility of the questions they had been asked by the MMC.

Outlook, page 21

Jobless rise points to rate cut soon

HOPES THAT interest rates will fall again this spring were boosted yesterday by figures suggesting that unemployment is starting to creep up. Both the claimant and survey measures of joblessness rose, while the pace of average earnings growth slowed.

The minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting earlier this month, also released yesterday, indicated that it was a question of when, not if, it should cut rates again. The majority view was that "although the direction of interest rates was still more likely than not to be down, there was no urgency this month".

The evidence from the jobs market was mixed, despite the small rise in unemployment. On the one hand the claimant count rose by 4,300 to 1,311,000 in February, and the survey measure of joblessness rose by 37,000 in November to January.

On the other hand, employment climbed by 119,000 in those three months to reach 27,319,000, a new record. The number of people of working age who were "inactive", or out of the workforce, fell by 100,000.

Most of the new jobs created in the latest quarter were part-time and in the service industries. More than 80 per cent of those taking part-time work did not want full-time jobs.

Manufacturing employment fell substantially, however: it dropped by 109,000 to just over four million in the three months to January.

Nor were there any signs of wage pressure. The recently released average earnings index grew by 4.3 per cent in the year to December, compared to

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

4.5 per cent the previous month.

Andrew Smith, the employment minister, said the figures showed an improvement in the jobs market. Higher levels of economic activity were accompanied by a "welcome moderation" in earnings growth.

But John Monks, TUC general secretary, said there was a very difficult time ahead, especially for manufacturing.

"With wage growth moderating and no sign of inflationary pressures in the economy, the Bank of England must cut interest rates when it meets next month," he said.

The minutes showed that eight of the nine MPC members had voted to leave rates at 5.5

per cent. The ninth, Willem Buiter, voted for a cut of 0.1 percentage points - a degree of precision that bemused analysts.

"The minutes make it clear that the decision to make no change in March was about timing and tactics rather than strategy," said Michael Saunders, an economist at Salomon Smith Barney.

The financial markets have pencilled in another two quarter-point reductions in interest rates this year. Most forecasts predict that unemployment will rise further as growth stalls in the first half of 1999.

"If the economy turns by mid-year, we might see 250,000 more jobs lost," said Neil Parker at Royal Bank of Scotland. "It is no comfort for those quarter of a million, but there would be that many new jobs gained over the following year."

Trends support no change, says ECB

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank sent a signal in its latest monthly bulletin that it will not reduce Euroland interest rates today, writes Diane Coyle.

Although the bank conceded that growth had slowed, it said the euro remained weak, money and credit growth was buoyant and recent wage settlements pointed to rising costs. "Taken together, all these factors argue in favour of an unchanged monetary stance."

In a move hinting that the clash between bankers and politicians did not end with the

resignation of Oskar Lafontaine as Germany's finance minister, it also criticised member governments. Budget deficits were too high, leaving no margin for them to expand further in an economic slowdown. High debt levels had pushed long-term interest rates higher, it said.

Worse, high tax burdens were "causing substantial disincentives to economic activity," the report said. "Priority needs to be given to removing the structural impediments to a higher level of economic activity in the euro area."

Ousted Amoco executive to receive \$6m payoff

A TOP executive of Amoco who is being forced out of the company following the merger with BP is to receive a payoff totalling nearly \$6m.

The payment to Bill Lowrie, who is quitting as deputy chief executive, is equivalent to three years' salary plus his entitlements under long-term incentive schemes.

Mr Lowrie, the biggest casualty so far in the merger, was paid just over \$1m last year, and BPAmoco's 1998 annual report shows that he also holds share options worth £16.6m.

The annual report also reveals that four former non-executive directors of Amoco are

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

sharing in special payments of nearly \$900,000 "in recognition of service to the Amoco board". In two cases, the payments are each worth \$304,000, not including their annual directors' fees.

Larry Fuller of Amoco, who retires as co-chairman of the combined group in March next year, has share options currently showing a profit of £36m. Last year he received a salary of \$1.67m and also netted a profit of £1.1m through the sale of share options.

Sir John Browne, BPAmoco's chief executive, earned a total

package of \$2.85m, made up of \$1.5m in salary and bonuses and a \$1.33m award under the group's long-term performance plan. For the current year, his potential long-term bonus is worth \$1.137m.

The total value of shares that may be awarded to senior BPAmoco executives this year under the long-term scheme is \$48m.

Senior executives are also in line to receive annual performance bonuses this year worth 70 per cent of their base salaries. Last year, when BPAmoco's financial performance was hit by the slide in oil prices, the annual bonus was 55 per cent.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS fell for the fourth successive session, Footsie losing 61.3 points to 6,140.6; it was at one point off 92.2. Supporting shares also gave ground. The market was ruffled by fears that tomorrow's futures and options expiry, the last in the tax year, could be tense.

New York's failure to capitalise on the Dow hitting 10,000 was also a factor. US buying was thought to be behind a 23.5p gain to 572p by ICI; Tomkins, up 9p to 223.5p, was helped by broker comments.

Derek Pain, page 25

NEW YORK

WALL STREET extended its retreat from Tuesday's intra-day busting of the psychologically important 10,000 barrier. The Dow came off in morning trading, falling 0.6 per cent to 9,877 by 1.30pm New York time. Nasdaq was also weak.

Financial stocks fell in spite of research from Lehman Brothers predicting an improvement in earnings in 1999. They were followed by technology stocks which slipped slightly in early trade.

News Analysis, page 23

TOKYO

STOCKS hit another record high in the wake of Wall Street's record surge overnight. The Nikkei 225 average closed up 195.29 points, or 1.22 per cent, at 16,268.11, its highest level since 31 July.

Traders said bargain-hunting and an influx of foreign money allowed the market to digest a bout of profit-taking.

Foreign investors continued to raise their weighting in Japanese stocks, regarded as good value compared with shares in Europe and the US.

FRANKFURT

SHARES in Frankfurt closed slightly lower after a volatile day ahead of the expiry of share and index options on Friday. The Xetra DAX ended down 0.56 per cent at 5,062.58.

Lufthansa was the most traded stock, gaining 5.37 per cent. The group has been named in Thailand as one of the three most likely bidders for a stake in the country's airline.

BMW gained 2.74 per cent ahead of its profit and dividend figures for 1998.

MADRID

EXCITEMENT over European banking mergers petered out, and the blue-chip Ibex-35 index ended the day down 0.93 per cent, or 94.8 points, at 10,119.1.

Traders took profits after two banks, Argentaria and BBV, squashed the rumours by saying they were not in talks to merge. Argentaria lost 2.09 per cent to 22.97 euros, while BBV fell 2.08 per cent to 14.13 euros. The market has been expecting further activity since Banco Santander merged with BCH in January.

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General	171	119.0	0.50	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	168.0	110.0	0.50	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	168.0	110.0	0.50	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	69.0	42.0	1.32	0.10	6.00
Healthcare	69.0	42.0	1.32	0.10	6.00
Real Estate	69.0	42.0	1.32	0.10	6.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	107.0	100.0	-1.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	107.0	100.0	-1.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	107.0	100.0	-1.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	51.0	51.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	51.0	51.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	51.0	51.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	40.0	40.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	40.0	40.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	40.0	40.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	44.0	41.0	-0.99	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	44.0	41.0	-0.99	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	44.0	41.0	-0.99	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	75.0	75.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	75.0	75.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	75.0	75.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	67.0	65.0	-0.34	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	67.0	65.0	-0.34	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	67.0	65.0	-0.34	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	30.0	30.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	20.0	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Time Line Ltd					
General	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Healthcare	17.0	17.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	17.0	17.0	0.		

	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
General Manager	123.70	125.00	124.00	117.00	115.00
Asst. General Mgr.	140.00	140.00	139.00	137.00	135.00
Asst. Controller	140.00	139.00	138.00	137.00	135.00
Asst. Controller	141.00	140.00	139.00	137.00	135.00
Financial Policy Staff Total	504.70	504.00	501.00	491.00	485.00
Investment Co.	265.53	264.00	261.00	251.00	249.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127.85	127.00	126.00	125.00	124.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127.85	127.00	126.00	125.00	124.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
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Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
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Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127.85	127.00	126.00	125.00	124.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127.85	127.00	126.00	125.00	124.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127.85	127.00	126.00	125.00	124.00
Gen. Exch.	89.00	88.50	87.00	84.00	83.00
Trust Int. Acc.	103.04	102.00	101.00	99.00	98.00
Trust Int. Inc.	88.26	87.95	87.00	84.00	83.00
Investment	14.14	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00
Intercompany	2,216.00	2,215.00	2,214.00	2,213.00	2,212.00
Investment	127				

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com

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Web fever lifts the gloom of a weary retreat

INTERNET MANIA enlivened a dreary market. A deal involving the Daily Mail and General Trust and the planned appearance of a first-ever FTSE Internet subsector encouraged investment surfers into action.

But they were unable to save Footsie from its fourth fall on the run, and even supporting shares had to contend with sellers outpacing buyers.

Footsie fell 61.3 points to 6,140.6, making a four-day decline of 195.1. It was last below 6,200 two weeks ago.

Daily Mail ignored the retreat. The "A" shares jumped 12p to 3,230 after the group disclosed an "extensive Internet programming agreement" with the Freeview Internet access operation of Dixons.

The electrical retailer has been riding the Net tide since the launch of Freeview. Its shares gathered further strength on the Mail link, climbing 7p to 1,290.5p.

The impending launch of the index subsector is seen in some quarters as further recognition of the market power now commanded by computer companies.

IT shares have boomed since they were given their

A BID is looking imminent for Reunion, which has mining interests in Africa. The shares jumped 20p to 93.5p.

A bid from South Africa at about 120p a share is the popular guess. The group has admitted it is in talks that could lead to a takeover or the sale of mining interests. Its shares arrived at around 80p three years ago; they have since moved between 27.5p and 138p.

own sector last year and a further reclassification, which will give a clearer identity to Internet shares, is expected to intensify the Web fever.

VossNet, up 17.5p to 112.5p, was one early beneficiary; the share rise caught the company on the hop and it felt obliged to make a statement saying it was unaware of any reason for the advance. The shares were 41.5p last month.

Easynet, another likely constituent of the index, added 5p to 377.5p and Netcall 3p to 65p.

However, the Internet performance was decidedly patchy. Most of the Web companies are tiddlers and the total value of the Internet brigade represents only 0.03 per cent of the market.

Footsie International, which runs the market's array of indices, intends to split IT companies into two sections, one covering hardware and the other software and computer services. These sectors will in turn be divided into six sub-sectors.

After Tuesday's brief flirtation with 10,000 points, the Dow Jones weakened during London trading, extinguishing any hope that Footsie would move back into positive territory. Worries that tomorrow's futures and options expiry, the

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

last in the tax year, could be a particularly tense affair also undermined sentiment.

Supporting indices weakened, with the mid cap off 34.4 points at 5,485.3 and the small cap 0.9 at 2,374.9.

Imperial Chemical Industries, apparently on US buying, was the best performing Footsie constituent, gaining 23.5p to 57p. Unloved, old fashioned conglomerate Tomkins, soon to drop out of the blue-chip index, rose 5p to 223.5p after Salomon Smith Barney set a one-month target of 250p.

Firmer oil prices buoyed BP Amoco, up 31.5p to 1,001p, and Shell, 9.75p to 397p. British Aerospace, with its arms-for-oil contracts with Saudi Arabia, also benefited, up 9p to 403p.

J Sainsbury, with a little help from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, firmed 6.5p to 85.5p. Tesco, 1.25p firmer at 161p, was thought to be meeting analysts. Imperial Tobacco was puffed 6.5p higher to 637.5p.

VERSALITE, the glass group, is preparing itself for a reverse takeover. It is raising £360,000 through a rights issue and the sale of two businesses. Brian Raven and Oliver Cooke are joining the company and together will have nearly 50 per cent of the capital.

The shares held at 1.25p. They arrived two years ago at 4p but have since drifted, hitting 0.75p before it became known that revamping plans were afoot.

a strike could materialise. MMS Petroleum moved ahead again, putting on 11p to around 45p.

Cedar, a computer group, jumped 10p to 117.5p on talk of a deal with Volvo. Another computer company, Northern, fell 3.5p to 150p after meeting analysts.

Football shares were ruffed by reports that the BSkyB bid for Manchester United could be blocked. Man U, ahead of the Champions' League clash with Inter of Milan, fell 21p to 219p. Newcastle United lost 5p to 90p.

Brick maker Blockleys fell 3p to 36.5p as the Enstone/Natural Building Materials-inspired shareholder revolt failed, with the three threatened directors retaining their boardroom positions.

Protons International, the health care group, was unchanged at 36p as Nomura International lifted its shareholding to 9.1 per cent.

Property bidder Hampton Trust firmed 2.5p to 19p. It has sold a property for £18.5m. Deane's edged up 0.25p to 2.75p after selling a property for £1.9m; the cash will reduce group borrowings.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 88,262
GLTS INDEX: 116.19 +0.47

lowing investment meetings. Allied Domecq, the drinks group with an investment meeting scheduled for last night, fell 14.5p to 468p. Kingfisher's much vaunted figures left the shares 17p off at 79p.

Bass was as flat as yesterday's pint, down 29.5p to 902.5p, as the Czech government allowed two of the country's major breweries to merge, a decision that seems to undermine the position of Bass-owned Prague Breweries. The approval of the deal cast doubt on Bass's mid-European policy.

British International, the car equipment group, moved ahead 6.5p to 147p on talk that a buy circular is being prepared. The Smiths Industries figures failed to impress; the shares slumped 106.5p to 95p, dragging others lower. TI, the engineer, fell 29.25p to 423.75p in sympathy.

Profits warnings left their mark. Devro, proving that

sausage skins are even more dangerous than banana skins, issued its fourth warning within a year and the shares were felled 40p lower to 143.5p.

Datrotech, a distributor of computer components, shaded to 26.5p after a cautious statement.

MIL, a computer group, rose 20.5p to 183p on bid talks, and printer Wace rose 6.5p to 61.5p after the US group Schwab trumped the Applied Graphics offer with an 80p-a-share bid.

Liho Supplies, an "actively considering increasing its offer", Litho Supplies gained 16.5p to 185p after a management buyout loomed.

Prestwick, a maker of printed circuit boards, fell 3p to 14.5p following a denial of a bid approach. And clothing group Leslie Wise, once thought to be the vehicle for the Joe Bloggs jeans group's share quota, fell 0.5p to 9.5p after saying that meetings with possible reverse takeover candidates had "not progressed beyond the initial stage". The group is now planning to return cash to shareholders.

Bid talk still drifted around. Hillsdown Holdings hardened 2p to 70p as some felt that

HEPWORTH, the building materials group, is ready to spend £300m on a European boiler-maker in an effort to boost its presence in the shrinking market for heating products.

The company, one of Europe's top five boiler manufacturers, yesterday said it was looking at a number of rivals in the fiercely competitive continental market.

Hepworth has been hit by a downturn in volumes and prices for its appliances, amid overcapacity and aggressive price-cutting by some of its European rivals.

Its main European rivals are the three German companies, Bosch, Buderus and Vaillant, and the Italian group Riello. Together, they control around half of the market for combination boilers. City analysts said that it would be difficult for Hepworth to buy one of the top four as they are all privately owned apart from Buderus. However, they added that the UK group

could take a stake or form joint ventures.

Industry experts stressed that Hepworth needed a deal to counter the tough market conditions. Last year the slump in boiler prices wiped out a large chunk of the 28.5m savings achieved through an aggressive cost-cutting programme. However, the disappearance of 700 jobs and a sharp cut in overheads helped Hepworth back into the black with a 1998 pre-tax profit of £54.5m compared with a loss of £1.7m in 1997, when the group took a 269m restructuring provision.

Mark Hale, an analyst with Merrill Lynch, said: "Hepworth is running to stand still." He estimates the shares, up 7.5p to 187.5p yesterday, a "hold". He believes that, on around 10 times his 1999 earnings forecast of 59p, the stock could benefit from an acquisition by Hepworth or by a takeover of the UK group.

Wantage, near Oxford. Mr Bradstock's father-in-law is Lord Oakesey, the famous racing pundit, and his father is David Bradstock, a leading London insurance broker. Mr Bradstock, among many things, trains horses for Piers Pottinger, a senior partner in City PR firm Bell Pottinger.

Unfortunately for Mr Pottinger his horse, which was due to run yesterday, was withdrawn at the last moment as Mr Bradstock decided it wasn't quite up to the rigours of the rolling Cheltenham course.

Mr Pottinger's horse, Eishken, is named after an estate on the Isle of Lewis owned by his friend Nick Oppenheim, owner of Northern Leisure.

Mr Pottinger entertained the party by pointing out that he shares his birthday - 3 March - with Charlie Brooks, the former racehorse trainer and TV pundit. Sir Mark Prescott, another legendary trainer; Sir Peter O'Sullivan; and Bob Dylan, the popular American folk singer. One wag said they had

something else in common - they could all sing, apart from Mr Dylan.

LUNCH WAS enlivened by a spirited discussion between Steve Norris, the former Tory transport minister and current road transport lobbyist, and the MP for Newmarket, Richard Spring, the shadow sports minister.

They concluded that Tony Banks is desperately unhappy as sports minister and that he would be a much better bet as the new mayor of London.

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E-mail: jwillcock@independent.co.uk

Smiths Industries is on the lookout for a big acquisition

SMITHS INDUSTRIES is on the lookout for a large acquisition that would mark a step change in the engineering group's attempts to build a world-leading business.

Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Smiths' chief executive, revealed yesterday that the company had put in a bid for Sherwood Medical, a former division of American Home Products, but had been outbid by Tyco, the US conglomerate, which offered \$1.8bn for the business.

He added that Smiths would consider buying parts of the aerospace division of LucasVarity, the engineering group, if it was put up for sale by its new owner TRW.

The comments suggest that Smiths is targeting larger acquisitions under Mr Butler-Wheelhouse than it did under his predecessor, Sir Roger Horn. In the past, Smiths has tended to make buy a number of small bolt-on companies for its aerospace, medical and industrial divisions.

Alan Thomson, Smiths' finance director, said yesterday

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

the company could afford to spend up to £1bn on an acquisition while keeping its interest cover at about five times. The largest acquisition in Smiths' history to date was in 1987, when it bought a business for £275m.

Smiths yesterday reported an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £99m for the six months to 31 January, on turnover up 10 per cent at £207m. Smiths said its continuing businesses had accounted for about half the revenue growth, with the rest coming from acquisitions. But almost all the profit growth was organic.

Smiths' growth was entirely down to its aerospace division, where profits grew by 42 per cent with the help of buoyant demand for its avionics products and improved operating margins. In the medical and industrial businesses, however, difficult economic conditions meant that profits were broadly flat.

Smiths' dependence on its

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2,970m, share price 953p (-106.5p)

— full-year to 31 July —, half-year to 31 Jan

Trading record 1996 1997 1998 1999 1999

Turnover (£m) 1008.0 1076.0 1199.0 553.0 607.0

Profit for the year (£m) 170.0 192.0 218.0 89.0 99.0

Earnings per share (p) 38.9 43.2 48.2 19.7 22.0

Dividends per share (p) 16.2 17.9 19.7 6.8 7.4

Share price

1100

1000

900

800

700

600

500

400

94 95 96 97 98 99

Source: Datastream

Operating margins

25

20

15

10

5

0

1998 1999

Aerospace Medical Industrial

Source: Datastream

aerospace business rattled the stock market, which marked the shares down 106p to 853p, even though the figures were broadly in line with expectations.

But analysts pointed out that Smiths' shares had risen sharply ahead of the figures.

Mr Butler-Wheelhouse stressed that the group had no plans to abandon its traditional dependence on its three divisions, and would continue to

Hepworth ready to spend £300m

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

HEPWORTH, the building materials group, is ready to spend £300m on a European boiler-maker in an effort to boost its presence in the shrinking market for heating products.

The company, one of Europe's top five boiler manufacturers, yesterday said it was looking at a number of rivals in the fiercely competitive continental market.

Hepworth has been hit by a downturn in volumes and prices for its appliances, amid overcapacity and aggressive price-cutting by some of its European rivals.

Its main European rivals are the three German companies, Bosch, Buderus and Vaillant, and the Italian group Riello. Together, they control around half of the market for combination boilers. City analysts said that it would be difficult for Hepworth to buy one of the top four as they are all privately owned apart from Buderus. However, they added that the UK group

could take a stake or form joint ventures.

Industry experts stressed that Hepworth needed a deal to counter the tough market conditions. Last year the slump in boiler prices wiped out a large chunk of the 28.5m savings achieved through an aggressive cost-cutting programme. However, the disappearance of 700 jobs and a sharp cut in overheads helped Hepworth back into the black with a 1998 pre-tax profit of £54.5m compared with a loss of £1.7m in 1997, when the group took a 269m restructuring provision.

Mark Hale, an analyst with Merrill Lynch, said: "Hepworth is running to stand still." He estimates the shares, up 7.5p to 187.5p yesterday, a "hold". He believes that, on around 10 times his 1999 earnings forecast of 59p, the stock could benefit from an acquisition by Hepworth or by a takeover of the UK group.

Wantage, near Oxford. Mr Bradstock's father-in-law is Lord Oakesey, the famous racing pundit, and his father is David Bradstock, a leading London insurance broker. Mr Bradstock, among many things, trains horses for Piers Pottinger, a senior partner in City PR firm Bell Pottinger.

Unfortunately for Mr Pottinger his horse, which was due to run yesterday, was withdrawn at the last moment as Mr Bradstock decided it wasn't quite up to the rigours of the rolling Cheltenham course.

Mr Pottinger's horse, Eishken, is named after an estate on the Isle of Lewis owned by his friend Nick Oppenheim, owner of Northern Leisure.

Mr Pottinger entertained the party by pointing out that he shares his birthday - 3 March - with Charlie Brooks, the former racehorse trainer and TV pundit. Sir Mark Prescott, another legendary trainer; Sir Peter O'Sullivan; and Bob Dylan, the popular American folk singer. One wag said they had

something else in common - they could all sing, apart from Mr Dylan.

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Premier Farnell warns of another year of hardship

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

PREMIER FARNELL, the troubled electrical components distributor, yesterday warned of another year of hardship, with tough markets and a radical internal restructuring set to take the toll on profits.

The company, which sells electronic products to manufacturers through mail-order catalogues, said the harsh trading conditions experienced in 1998 in its core UK and US markets would continue into this year. Premier's US customers are suffering from a slump in demand in Asia, while UK industrial companies have been hit by the strength of sterling.

Its customers' woes caused a steep fall in the group's 1998 profits. The company, formed in 1996 with the controversial £1.8m purchase of Premier of the US by the British group Farnell, posted a 27 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £100.4m on sales down 5 per cent to £705m. The dividend was slashed 30 per cent to 9p.

The new chief executive John Hirst, who joined in July from Imperial Chemical Industries, said Premier would try to buck its difficult markets with a sweeping programme of internal changes. The company is spending £45m over three years to create a computer database of all its customers and to upgrade its logistics

systems. Premier will also invest £15m a year to boost its marketing operations.

But the immediate future looks bleak. Markets remain difficult and the restructuring spend will not pay off until the new millennium. However, City analysts believe the company is on the right track to repair the damage caused by the risky US acquisition, masterminded by the former chief executive Howard Poulson, and a raft of pricing blunders.

"There could be some more pain in terms of profits in 1999 but without it Premier would continue to drift away," said Ed Wright, an analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, who is predicting 1999 profits of 59p.

The shares, down 2p to 192p yesterday are on 14 times 1999 earnings. At this level, the stock is at a large discount to Electrocomponents, Premier's main rival, and given the hopes of a long-term turnaround, is worth a punt.

John Hirst: Plans sweeping programme of changes

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Not everyone's a winner

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE CITY'S finest were out in force under the sun at Cheltenham yesterday to watch the Queen Mother Stakes over a marvellous festival.

Nick Wells, the former County NatWest corporate financier who did the Blue Arrow deal in the 1980s and has popped up at Rascals, was enjoying the show. Mr Wells is advising the maverick retail entrepreneur and Sears winner Philip Green.

Mr Wells was sharing an entertainment tent with Martin Smith, an affable Irishman who used to head up Phoenix, the corporate finance boutique, and who now heads the corporate finance arm of Donaldson Luffkin & Jenrette in London.

DLJ is doing well, having just poached two senior bankers, Richard Booth and Michael Meinhardt, from Salomons. The former was head of the financial

SPORT

Tennis: Lazy days in Majorca are a distant memory for world No 1 as he seeks the experience to stay at the top
Moya's feet firmly on the ground

BY JOHN ROBERTS

AN OVERJOYED Carlos Moya telephoned his mother from Indian Wells, California. "Mama," he said, "I'm No 1." There was a pause before Pilar Moya responded. "Excuse me," she said, "who's there?"

The suspicion that somebody might be playing a joke arose because Mrs Moya was under the impression that her 22-year-old son needed to do more than win a semi-final last week to become the first man from Spain - let alone Majorca - to head the world tennis rankings since the advent of the ATP computer in 1973.

Reassured that the mission was accomplished, the Moya family settled down to absorb the media reaction. *El Mundo's* front page headline, "Moya lands in heaven," set the tone, and every publication rejoiced that their hero would remain in a state of grace for at least two weeks, because the next world rankings list is not due until after the 10-day Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida, which end on 26 March.

A year ago, Key Biscayne was taken over by thousands of flag-waving Chileans who arrived on charter flights for the final Sunday, when Marcelo Rios defeated Andre Agassi to supplant Pete Sampras as No 1. Rios spent a total of six weeks at the top, his cause not helped by injuries. Sampras rose again, winning Wimbledon for the fifth time and ending the year as No 1 for a record sixth time.

The effort exhausted Sampras, who missed the Australian Open in January and has since lost early in two tournaments, against Jan-Michael Gambill, an American compatriot, in Scottsdale, Arizona, and against Spain's Felix Mantilla in Indian Wells. That gave Moya the impetus to become only the 15th world No 1 in the history of the ATP rankings and sets a fascinating scene for the months ahead. Sampras goes to Key Biscayne determined to reclaim the No 1 position he held for a total of 262 weeks, six fewer than Jimmy Connors and eight less than Ivan Lendl, who holds the record of 270 weeks. Moya will also expect a strong challenge from Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Alex Corretja, a Spanish friend and rival, and Australia's Pat Rafter, each of whom have faltered within sight of the summit.

Moya, in contrast to Rios, cannot be accused of arriving at the top without a Grand Slam title to his name. He defeated Corretja in the final of the French Open last June, becoming only the fourth Spaniard to win the men's singles championship on the clay courts of Paris. Spanish players are raised on clay, the sport's slowest surface, but only Manuel Santana (1961 and 1964) and Andres Gimeno (1972) had triumphed in the French classic until Sergi Bruguera (1983 and 1994) kicked his countrymen's habit of wearing themselves into the dust in the series of tournaments en route to Paris.

Even more surprising than Moya v Corretja at the French Open, however, was the fact that the pair went on to contest the final of the ATP Tour Championship on an indoor hard court in Hanover in November, mocking the perception that claustrophobia is endemic in the men's game in Spain. To put the Hanover revelation in perspective, Moya and Corretja trained together at the Centro Alto Rendimiento Club in San Cugat del Valles, near Barcelona, on the only indoor court in the whole of Spain specifically de-



Spanish master: Carlos Moya 'is the one that has that little bit more', says Tim Henman. 'He's got a deceptive serve, his forehand is difficult to read and he's a very good athlete for a big guy' *Allsport*

signed for tennis. Three more are currently under construction at the same club.

Corretja advanced to the Hanover final with a three sets win against Sampras. Moya defeated Tim Henman in three sets. "The Spanish guys have got such variation on their groundstrokes," the British No 1 said. "I think Moya is the one that has that little bit more that stands out. He's got a deceptive serve, his forehand is very difficult to read, and he's a very good athlete for a pretty big guy."

Asked to compare the Moya match with his Wimbledon semi-final defeat by Sampras, Henman said: "I think they are very similar. I think I played better against Sampras, but I definitely couldn't have given more on either occasion."

Corretja won the Hanover final after losing the opening two sets, a testimony to his powers of recovery and also evidence that Moya was correct in the self-critical observation that he needed to improve his concentration if he was to become

No 1. As a court artist, Moya, unlike Goya, sometimes flatters to deceive. But he tries to learn from experience.

"After I played my first final in a Grand Slam," Moya said, recounting a straight sets defeat by Sampras at the 1997 Australian Open, "I realised how difficult it was to get there. I didn't know if I was going to be able to do it again. I was still young, 20 years old. I thought if I could do it

once, I could do it again. It happened in the French Open. I played really well. That final in Australia gave me a lot of experience. I know that's why I won the French. The US Open [last year] was the same. I didn't expect to play the semi-final. I was playing my worst tennis ever right before the US Open. But in the right moment, I won that [second round] match against [Michael] Chang [6-3 in the fifth set], and all the power and con-

science I lost suddenly came back again."

The resurgence did not last long enough to save Moya from a four-sets defeat by Mark Philippoussis in the US Open semi-finals; nor was Moya able to quell the Australian's power over five sets in last Sunday's final in Indian Wells. But that was not allowed to detract from the elation of the folks back home.

Majorca, evocative of package holidays, is hardly a cradle of world class sport, although George Best is among those to have sown wild oats on the island during his summer sojourns from Manchester United. Your correspondent, in a former life, tried to keep track of Best in the days when he sunbathed on Bar Sol Beach, Palma Nova, and commenced most of his evenings with drinks and dinner at the Gomia Grill, in Palma's disco quarter. On the eve of his 26th birthday in May, 1972, Best fled from Manchester to Marbella and announced his retirement from football. He then hit a few balls at Lew Hoad's tennis

ranch before making a temporary truce with United and heading for Majorca prior to pre-season training.

As for home-grown sporting notables, Majorca can call up Guillermo Timoner, who won six world cycling titles pedalling furiously behind a motorbike, and Juan Gomez, a world champion submarine fisherman. Moya, asked why there were not more tennis players, smiled and said: "Because it is an island, and the people of Majorca are very lazy."

Real Majorca's exploits in the European Cup-Winners' Cup have added some pep, although Moya's allegiance to his local club is surpassed by his strength of feeling for his adoptive Barcelona. Moya's skills with his feet are almost as impressive as those with his hands, and are often displayed in a kick-about with a tennis ball on the practice courts.

Last Christmas, Moya bet Real Majorca's Argentinian international goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, that he

would beat him with three penalty kicks out of five. "No, that's too much," Moya was told by Hector Cuper, the club's trainer. "Make it two out of five." It was sound advice. Moya converted two of the five, and Roa had to treat him to dinner.

In common with many leading players, Moya touches a variety of bases. When not playing tournaments or training in Barcelona, he has a retreat in Monte Carlo. Boris Becker, as familiar in Monaco as in Munich and Miami, is having a house built in Majorca. The three-times Wimbledon champion may come in handy should Moya need extra homework with a serve-volleyer.

Tall and lean, Moya wears his hair long, rock style, and probably plays air guitar to CDs by his favourite groups, Aerosmith, U2, Bon Jovi and Queen. In July 1997 he had his hair cut short for a week of mandatory duty with the military reserves; another occasion when his mother was entitled to ask "Excuse me, who's there?"

THE REIGN OF SPAIN

Spaniards in Top 10 since ATP rankings began in 1973

CARLOS MOYA	No 1	15 March 1999	JUAN AGUILERA	No 7	17 September 1984
MANUEL ORANTES	No 2	23 August 1973	EMILIO SANCHEZ	No 7	30 April 1990
SERGI BRUGUERA	No 3	1 August 1994	ALBERTO BERAATEGUI	No 7	14 November 1994
ALEX CORRETTJA	No 3	30 November 1998	ALBERT COSTA	No 9	21 April 1997
JOSE HIGUERAS	No 6	13 June 1983	CARLOS COSTA	No 10	18 May 1992

Jordan rejects new links

THE LAST time Michael Jordan gave up basketball, he unsuccessfully tried a second career in baseball. This time round, although he is playing plenty of golf, he is not tempted to take it up full-time.

"I had my taste of what it's like to be in the PGA atmosphere, and I don't think I want that," the former Chicago Bull said after the pro-am tournament preceding the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Florida, on Tuesday.

It was the second time since he announced his retirement from basketball that Jordan teed it up with the professionals. He played three rounds in the Bob Hope Classic in January.

At Bay Hill, he played with someone with whom he shares a lot in common - Arnold Palmer. Both are among the most popular competitors their sports have known, both are always willing to play to the gallery. "It's always a treat to play with him," Jordan said. "If you ever try to pattern your career after someone, look at Arnold. I have a lot of respect

GOLF
BY DOUG FERGUSON

for him. It didn't take much for him to get me down here."

The clowning started as soon as they walked on the first tee. Jordan had his picture taken with Palmer's grandson as Palmer looked on in mock disbelief. "You never want your picture taken with me, Sam," Palmer told him.

Jordan ripped his drive down the middle on the 18th, only to watch country singer Amy Grant hit her drive alongside him from the forward tees. "I think she outdrove you," Palmer said.

Jordan, who has not played since injuring his finger on a cigar cutter five weeks ago, said he was nervous on the first tee with about 2,000 people watching, but played better on the back nine. Along with his eagle, he made a par on the 18th (net birdie) to give his team a 59.

"In basketball, I have all the right skills and I perfected those skills,"

Jordan said. "Here, I'm in a game that you can't perfect it. You can lose it as quick as you get it."

In Phoenix, Arizona, Alison Nicholas, the only Briton to have won in America this year, returns full of confidence after a two-week break for the Standard Register Ping tournament, which starts today.

The 1997 US Open champion from Birmingham followed her win in the Hawaiian Open with an 11th place in the Australian Masters that included a career-best round of 64. It was a welcome bounce back to form for the 37-year-old, who struggled with illness for most of last season. "I put in a lot of hard work at the start of the year and it was great that it paid off so quickly," she said.

In January, Nicholas spent time in Florida working with English professional Martin Hall, the husband of tour player Lisa Hackney. "He has got me working on a few drills and it has really helped," she said. "I was twisting the club too much on the backswing and he's also helped with the short game."

Laura Davies, who set an LPGA record by winning this event four years in a row from 1994, is hoping that a return to a favourite venue will provide a vital spark before the first major of the season, the Nabisco Dinah Shore in California next week.

"I've been hitting the ball well all year but not scoring," said the player who has had one top 10 finish in six starts. "It's not so much depressing as disappointing and I just hope the putts start to fall this week."

Davies won last season's Tour Championship in November - ending a US Tour drought stretching back to this tournament in 1997 - and she reflected: "I really hoped that would spark a return to top form. But it probably came at the wrong time. We had a five-week break and some of the momentum was lost."

Liselotte Neumann defends the title while fellow Swede Annika Sorenstam, the world No 1, returns from four weeks skiing for only her fourth event of the year.



Jordan: Partnered Palmer

The richest prize in the history of the European women's tour will be on offer at the Evian Masters in France in June. A winner's cheque of £102,500 is more than all but two players. Swedes Helen Alfredsson and Sophie Gustafson, earned in the whole of last season on the circuit. The total purse of £689,000 - up by almost £180,000 - makes the tournament the fifth most lucrative worldwide in the women's game.

Testing route for British venture

A NEW British cycling team hits the road next week with their sponsor talking of the Tour de France as "a long-term aim."

There is a long and difficult route between the opening race for Team Men's Health, Sunday's Grand Prix of Essex, and a shot at cycling's Holy Grail, three weeks of pedalling purgatory.

"They have a global image, and the Tour fits in well with that," said Jane Williams, the team director, speaking about the publishing company whose *Men's Health* magazine is behind the sponsorship. "They are discussing four or five years down the line, and they are keen to work towards a team for the Tour."

Leading the 10 riders who comprise Team Men's Health is the former world track champion, Colin Sturgess, who last year made a successful comeback after a five-year lay-off.

The last British-backed team to

CYCLING
BY ROBIN NICHOLL

tackle the Tour was ANC-Halfords in 1987. Four of the nine-man team completed the 4,321km to Paris, an ill-prepared venture founded on the ambitions of their boss, Tony Capper, who was later sued by his riders for unpaid wages.

The new team is an English-Welsh mix, but for a future Tour quest they will have to buy in European talent and be prepared to invest cash by the million to qualify for a place. On Sunday it clashes with Britain's No 1 team, Linda McCartney Foods, managed by Sean Yates, one of only a few Britons who knows the Tour's demands.

An early target for Team Men's Health will be a place in Britain's FruTour in May, which will be a big enough step in their first campaign.

Reval

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Revamped French spell danger

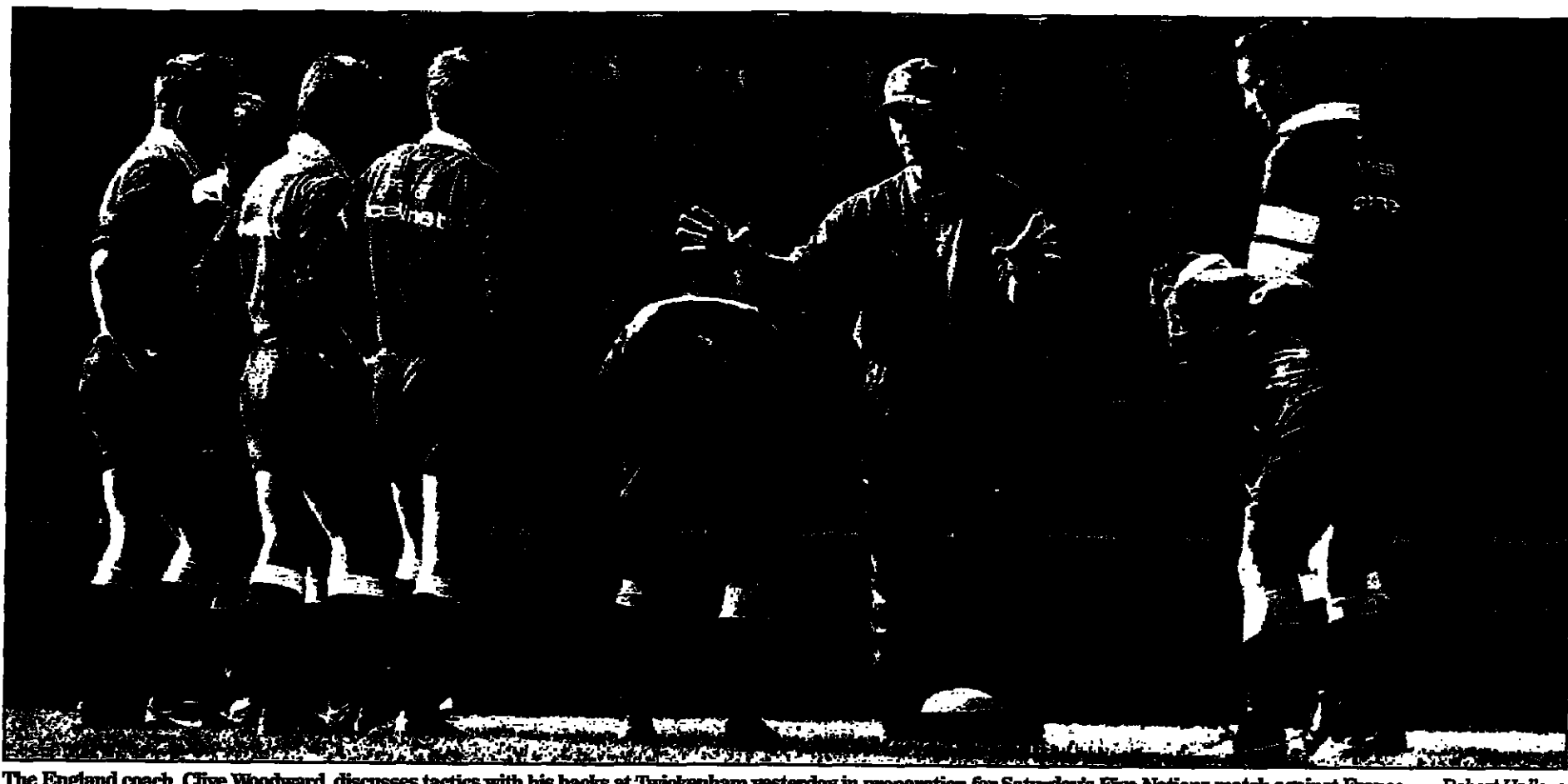
RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWITT

PIERRE VILLEPREUX was at his nonchalant best yesterday, effectively writing off the chances of a fifth successive French victory over England with a philosophical shrug of the shoulders and a cucumber-cool dash of Parisian sangfroid. "This game is important for our opponents because they still have their Grand Slam ambitions, but for France the result is not a major concern," he pronounced, confirming the English view that no Tricolore full-back, not even a middle-aged one, can ever be trusted.

It is Villepreux who is to be taken at his word, the light went out on his country's Five Nations campaign a fortnight ago when Thomas Castaignède slid an injury-time penalty across the face of the Stade de France posts and presented Wales with a first victory on the far side of the channel since 1975. "All that is important this year is the World Cup," said the coach as he and his colleagues, Jean-Claude Skrela, announced their much-changed side for Saturday's tête-à-tête at Twickenham. "It will be an interesting game, this one; it will show us where we stand and what we can achieve against a strong England team. But we cannot win the Slam and, anyway, we are weakened by injury."

So weakened that they can leave Christian Calisto, considered this time last year to be the best prop in world rugby, on the bench, along with the Stade Français wing, Christophe Dominici. This new French team may lack familiarity but it reeks of danger. As Clive Woodward, the England coach, said on Tuesday: "I'm convinced we have a team capable of winning this game, but that's about all I'm convinced of. The French will not lack for motivation."

Calisto may feel a trifle



The England coach, Clive Woodward, discusses tactics with his backs at Twickenham yesterday in preparation for Saturday's Five Nations match against France. Robert Hallam

hard done by, given that he was asked to prop on both sides against Wales, but the hugely accomplished Toulouse forward has yet to recapture the form he showed before succumbing to serious injury last summer. It is no particular surprise that the Tricolore selectors prefer Stade Français' loose-head specialist Sylvain Marconnet for this one. According to Ben Evans, the Welshman who locked horns with both men in Paris two weekends ago, Marconnet was by far the more formidable proposition.

As expected, Xavier Garbajosa replaces an out-of-sorts

Philippe Bernat-Salles on the right wing; however, the more significant changes stem from injuries to two of the most influential players in the French squad, Richard Dourthe and Olivier Magne. Pascal Giordani, a 24-year-old centre from Dax, is granted a debut at outside centre because Dourthe dislocated his right shoulder in a wholly avoidable off-the-ball collision with his Welsh opposite number, Mark Taylor. Meanwhile, Richard Castel takes over Magne's role on the open-side flank, with Thomas Llievreumont moving from No 8 to blind side. The reshuffle gives Christophe Juliet a first Five Nations start

in the middle of the back row.

That experimental loose forward combination will be central to the French effort, for Villepreux considers the English back row to be world-class. Castel is a bruising operator in the Philippe Bernat-Salles mould, while both Llievreumont and Juliet are intelligent and inspirational. Juliet's display for France A in Dublin last month was right out of the top drawer and he deserves his place in the Five Nations spotlight.

By contrast, the Scots have taken a conservative selectorial

approach to this weekend's Celtic squabble with Ireland at Murrayfield, fielding the side that pushed England unexpectedly close in the recent Calcutta Cup match. Gary Armstrong, the Newcastle scrum-half and national captain, has recovered from the elbow injury that cost him a 44th cap against Italy a fortnight ago and returns for Edinburgh Reivers' Iain Murray who drops to the bench.

It remains to be seen whether Jim Telfer, the Scottish

coach, will live to regret his decision not to reinforce his front row by introducing the tight-head bulk of Matthew Pridmore ahead of Paul Burnell's highly developed survival instincts; after all, the Irish front row is still considered to be the most

potent in Europe, despite failing to dominate the English threeos.

Still, Tom Smith, an automatic choice as Scotland's loose-head, has no inferiority complex about Keith Wood, Paul Wallace and company. "The Irish tight forwards have been talked up a good deal during this tournament, but the comments fire us up because we know that when we play to our maximum potential, we're not so bad ourselves," Smith said yesterday. "We will have to work hard and improve on our game against Italy, but, if we are aggressive and match the Irish up front, we can provide a winning platform."

FRANCE (v England, Twickenham, Saturday 8.15pm): P. Villepreux (15); P. Castel (14); P. Castel (13); P. Castel (12); P. Castel (11); P. Castel (10); P. Castel (9); P. Castel (8); P. Castel (7); P. Castel (6); P. Castel (5); P. Castel (4); P. Castel (3); P. Castel (2); P. Castel (1).

Attorney to question O'Connell

BY DAVID FIELD

World Boxing Council and World

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judges for title bouts and paying

their expenses and fees.

When a judge selected by a

governing body backs that

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IBF-selected judge, Williams, is

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Spitzer is chairman of a boxing

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Loughborough's slam

BY BILL COLWILL

Loughborough completed

a grand slam in the Milton

Keynes sunshine yesterday,

winning all four trophies in the

Halifax Buses Championship.

The surprise win was their 5-4

defeat of the holders, Brunel,

West London in the men's final.

With both sides consisting

largely of National League

players, it was not surprising

that the pace was fast and fu-

rious after initial sparing.

Brunel, having wasted two

early penalty corners, were

shown how to take them when

Andrew Langlands scored from

Loughborough's first and third.

In between, the former Great

Britain striker Jason Lee

dashed down the left wing to set

up Kuiraj Liddar to give Lough-

borough a 3-0 lead. David

Mathews, their captain, pulled

a goal back for Brunel on the

interval.

Jerome Goudie stretched

Loughborough's lead to 4-1

early in the second half before

Brunel fought back with two

goals from Mathews and one

from Paul Wickens. Lee com-

pleted Loughborough's scoring

from a penalty corner.

Loughborough won their

fifth successive women's final

and their 11th in all when they

beat Birmingham 4-0 in an en-

tertaining if, at times, one-sided

game. Loughborough never

looked back after Hannah

Adcock gave them the lead in

the 15th minute. Earlier Bir-

mingham, with Helen Grant

looking dangerous, had caused

a few anxious moments in the

Loughborough defence in

which the captain, Maria Mer-

riegan, was outstanding. Jo

Upton put the winners further

ahead at a penalty corner in the

26th minute before the tempo-

rary suspension of Merrigan

took the pressure off the Bir-

mingham defence.

Restored to a full comple-

ment shortly after the interval,

Loughborough continued the

relentless pressure. Kate

Sharland, afterwards named

player of the match, blasted

down the left wing to set up a

goal for Tanya Barnard and

then scored herself three min-

utes later. With the final shot

of the match Grant scored a

Backin

Pearl has lustre of majesty

AS THEY celebrate in the celestial drinking house, the lude comprising the likes of Arkle and Golden Miller may be preparing to induct a new member into their executive bar.

The last Cheltenham Gold Cup of the millennium is greatly notable by the fact that it may throw up a quite extraordinary horse. It looks like he has a choice of three.

Those who have not heard of Florida Pearl will not be reading this piece. In the fast-gossiping sphere of Irish racing, his name has been passed round like old jumble virtually from the moment he could stand on four legs.

He has grown up to be a beast of substance both in size and achievement, and if the seven-year-old wins this afternoon he will be doing so for the third successive Festival. At the

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
Racing Correspondent

same time, he may bring to an end several bookmakers' involvement with the meeting. Istabraq's win for the travellers put several layers on debt row on Tuesday, and a potentially lethal injection of support for Florida Pearl now awaits.

The big horse has developed a habit of getting out the cigarettes once he hits the front and it could be that he is a great deal better than already shown.

"I'm not sure how much he can come on," Willie Mullins, his trainer, says. "He won his first bumper as a four-year-old and the Cheltenham bumper as a five-year-old so he obviously came to hand very early. So you wouldn't imagine there is an awful lot of improvement in

him. But horses do surprise you. If he gets there as good as last year that will do me."

Certainly Florida Pearl did not look like damaged goods in his Cotswolds surroundings yesterday morning. His stablemate Alexander Banquet may have later capsized under

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Florida Pearl
(Cheltenham 3.15)
NB: Decoupage
(Cheltenham 5.40)

expectation in the first race on the card, but as Florida picked grass in a sunshine state he appeared the epitome of relaxation.

Teeton Mill and Double Thriller were considered to be little more than jolly hockey-sticks protagonists this time last year. The former luminar-

ies of point-to-pointing have had to be taken treated more seriously since then.

Indeed, Teeton Mill can make himself majestic by deed here. Only Arkle has won a Hennessy Gold Cup. King George VI Chase and Gold Cup in the same season and the most celebrated of steeplechasers can be considered a rather reasonable benchmark in this sport.

If there is a blemish in Teeton Mill's record it comes in the shape of an appearance here in the Champion Hunters' Chase last April. The grey looked a bit of an old man that day as Double Thriller strode 12 lengths clear of him up the hill. That effort must be redressed.

Double Thriller himself is now with Paul Nicholls, an appointment which no longer seems to be a permanent bar to success at the Festival fol-

lowing the trainer's debut successes this year.

In another life, Nicholls was aboard the 1987 Gold Cup favourite, Playschool, who was pulled up, and he even managed to cap that disaster 12 months ago when the fancied See More Business was carried out by Cyborgo.

Nicholls was so displeased by that eventuality that he seemed prepared to tear out the entrails of Cyborgo's trainer, Martin Pipe. You could have roasted chestnuts in Nicholls's ears and had he not been restrained, Chester Barnes might now be a fully-fledged licence holder.

"That's in the past, dead and buried," Nicholls says. "It got totally exaggerated and blown out of all proportion. What I felt that day is best kept to myself. When something like that happens you don't

just say to yourself 'well that was bad luck wasn't it?' It was just my temperament I suppose."

Double Thriller has not proved so bellicose this season, slaughtering sad animals like the keeper of an abattoir. His preparatory races have not been debilitating tests and that will help him in this the most demanding of contests.

It could be that Double Thriller is a very good horse indeed and it is his great misfortune to be running against an animal unusual by his uncharted ability. A bar stool can be made vacant in the heavens because this afternoon we are about to witness a racehorse of the rarest accomplishments.

It is scripted that the century should go out gloriously. It is scripted that FLORIDA PEARL (nap 3.15) should win the Cheltenham Gold Cup.



Edredon Bleu, Mulligan and Ask Tom (right to left) take the field away from the packed stands in yesterday's Queen Mother Champion Chase

David Ashdown

Church hush follows Dundee's fall

THE FESTIVAL nearly died here yesterday. In the time it took Nick Dundee to turn from a cruising champion to a tangled mess of legs on the landing side of Cheltenham's notorious downhill fence, as he struggled to his feet, the horse that most of Ireland had come to back started to hop and stagger on just three legs, normally the sign of a broken bone and an imminent bullet. Looks Like Trouble, who was left clear by the fall and won the Royal & SunAlliance Chase in a canter, met the hush of a church as he galloped past the stunned grandstands a few seconds later.

By the evening, though, the news seemed better. Nick Dundee stood on all four legs and then walked into the horse ambulance a few minutes after his fall. Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, reported that "the vet at the scene thought there would be no permanent damage and the prospects look good".

BY GREG WOOD
At Cheltenham

It meant that the crowds who had left hundreds of thousands of pounds in the betting ring could at least walk out of the gate with something to cling to. It was the memory of Nick Dundee as a brown monster galloping smoothly down the hill, full of rhythm and with all but one of his rivals long since beaten off. It is an image which will still be sharp if he ever returns to Cheltenham for a Gold Cup.

The only consolation for the Irish punters as their tickets hit the floor was that Looks Like Trouble was ridden by one Irishman, Paul Carberry, and trained by another, Noel Canham. He must also be a fine prospect to have lived with Nick Dundee's remorseless gallop for as long as he did, though there seems little doubt that he would have finished an honourable second but for the favourite's fall.

The failure of Nick Dundee brought a sudden halt to a golden run for the punters. Barton, who was backed down to 2-1 favourite for the Royal & SunAlliance Hurdle, galloped right away from his field to win by nine lengths, while the closing stages of the Queen Mother Champion Chase were

fought out by Edredon Bleu and Call Equiname, the first and second favourites.

As he was led back towards the runner-up's position, Tony McCoy, Edredon Bleu's jockey, was twisting in his saddle to watch a replay of the closing stages on the giant screen above the paddock. To judge by the look of puzzlement on his face, he was trying to work out what had gone wrong. He had led over the last on Edredon Bleu, and was still going well enough to think that nothing would come past him. With half a furlong to run, though, something did.

But if McCoy was surprised, the grandstands were less so, for Call Equiname had been quietly tracking Edredon Bleu from the top of the hill. Mick

Fitzgerald had judged the race perfectly, and knew very well that Call Equiname cannot hit the front until the final strides. His challenge was delivered with split-second precision, to claim both the £73,000 first prize, and a £50,000 bonus for adding the Champion Chase to his win in the Victor Chandler Chase.

"This was always my nap of the meeting," Paul Nicholls, his trainer, said afterwards. "He has given us plenty of headaches and has been pinned, bar-fired and implanted. His legs have been problems but as his unbeaten record suggests, he is a very good horse."

Barton's future, meanwhile, will be planned with a return to the Festival for next year's

Champion Hurdle as the prime objective. Istabraq, of course, is already a 7-4 chance for that race, but with Barton's astonishingly easy success yesterday, the two novice hurdles at this year's meeting have been won by a total of 26 lengths. Barton is now a 10-1 chance for the 2000 Champion Hurdle, and the first championship of the next century could well turn out to be one of the best.

The Coral Cup, yesterday's big handicap, was a greenwash for the Irish, who provided the first five horses home. The one horse they wanted above all to win yesterday, though, was Nick Dundee. His defeat cast a cloud over the Festival, and only a victory for Florida Pearl in this afternoon's Gold Cup will blow it away.

My hopes kicked away by a flailing hoof

IMAGINE THE contrast between sitting, staring inanely at Sesame Street on Channel 4, waiting for the racing coverage to start, and pulling on breeches in a packed weighing-room at Cheltenham in anticipation of five good rides on a glorious afternoon at the Festival.

Sadly, I was doing the former yesterday and not the latter.

My fall from Kadou Nonantais on Tuesday meant that my Festival was terminated after just four races. The fall itself was a soft one, but the feet of MacGeorge unfortunately connected with the back of my head. The only obstruction between the horse's plated hooves and my helmet was my right hand.

This probably saved me from having to buy a new skull

cap but didn't do a lot for my chances of riding a Festival winner this week.

Luckily the X-rays have shown that nothing is broken, but my hand resembles a water-filled marigold and my brain is not recalling all the events of yesterday. I will have to sit on the sidelines for a compulsory week but should be able to resume riding after that.

It is hard to describe how I feel today in printable words. All the planning, plotting, anticipation and excitement has come to nothing. Fate has stuck a dirty great big pin in my Festival balloon, so I will have to wait until next year to blow up another one.

Until one has experienced the deep, deep disappoint-

Jamie Osborne on how the injury to his hand provides a lasting pain in the frustration of so many plans and dreams



ments that racing can throw up, it is hard to fully appreciate how high the Cheltenham highs can feel.

Most Festival-winning jockeys look like rollover Lottery winners simply because they know what a fine line exists between success and failure.

Today the stakes are as high as they get. The Gold Cup is the prize we all want, and today I feel sure that it will belong to

Norman Williamson for the second time. His ride, Teeton Mill, has thrived since joining Venetia Williams, and he can put the seal on an unbelievable season for an extraordinary trainer. Do not listen to the doubters who say that he will not stay. This horse is simply a doer when he hits the front, and now that Norman is armed with that knowledge you can be sure he will not take it up too soon.

The annual four-year-old cavalry charge, otherwise known as the Triumph Hurdle, has thrown up some strange results over the years, but this year's favourite, Katarino, looks like being a tough nut to crack and should not be opposed.

Philip Hobbs's Nuvelino could run into a place at a huge price. Flying Instructor may get outpaced through the middle of

the race in the Grand Annual Chase but will be staying on stoutly up the hill and this consistent nine-year-old is worthy of solid each-way support.

The Cathcart Chase can go to the ultra-consistent Dr Leunt who would deserve a Festival triumph after battling with injury for most of his life. He actually races with a metal plate in his leg.

The final race of the Festival is the County Hurdle at 5.40. The drying ground gives the Tote Gold Trophy winner, Decoupage, an outstanding chance of winning. He side-stepped the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday for this easier option and can reward his connections' caution with a win here, putting the seal on a memorable day for Norman Williamson.

word for See More Business, and I am confident that he will finish in front of Double Thriller, his stable mate.

See More Business had a problem and wasn't firing when disappointing in recent outings, but my information is that he has been flying at home and he will start at a decent price.

Double Thriller, however, looks a short price to me for a horse that had nothing to beat in either of its races this season.

Dodger McCartney was on the mark yesterday with Barton, who landed a gamble from 5-2 to 2-1 favourite in the opening Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle.

I can also pass on a good

BIG RACE FIELD	
3.15	CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (A) £260,000 added 3m 2 1/4 fms 11 Dye 148,500
1	FLORIDA PEARL (nap 3.15) (C) 10y 12st 10lb Owner: Gail Fiddes; Trainer: P. Nicholls Form: 1st in 1997 Gold Cup, 2nd in 1998 Gold Cup, 3rd in 1999 Gold Cup, 4th in 1999 Gold Cup, 5th in 1999 Gold Cup, 6th in 1999 Gold Cup, 7th in 1999 Gold Cup, 8th in 1999 Gold Cup, 9th in 1999 Gold Cup, 10th in 1999 Gold Cup, 11th in 1999 Gold Cup, 12th in 1999 Gold Cup, 13th in 1999 Gold Cup, 14th in 1999 Gold Cup, 15th in 1999 Gold Cup, 16th in 1999 Gold Cup, 17th in 1999 Gold Cup, 18th in 1999 Gold Cup, 19th in 1999 Gold Cup, 20th in 1999 Gold Cup, 21st in 1999 Gold Cup, 22nd in 1999 Gold Cup, 23rd in 1999 Gold Cup, 24th in 1999 Gold Cup, 25th in 1999 Gold Cup, 26th in 1999 Gold Cup, 27th in 1999 Gold Cup, 28th in 1999 Gold Cup, 29th in 1999 Gold Cup, 30th in 1999 Gold Cup, 31st in 1999 Gold Cup, 32nd in 1999 Gold Cup, 33rd in 1999 Gold Cup, 34th in 1999 Gold Cup, 35th in 1999 Gold Cup, 36th in 1999 Gold Cup, 37th in 1999 Gold Cup, 38th in 1999 Gold Cup, 39th in 1999 Gold Cup, 40th in 1999 Gold Cup, 41st in 1999 Gold Cup, 42nd in 1999 Gold Cup, 43rd in 1999 Gold Cup, 44th 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	C	H	L	S	T
Cheltenham	7.2	7.2	6.1	7.0	6.1
Elmington	7.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Weymouth	6.1	10.2	5.1	7.1	7.1
Coole Abbey	10.1	8.1	10.1	9.1	8.1
Castle Ashby	11.1	8.1	11.1	11.1	8.1
Walsingham	10.1	11.1	12.1	12.1	9.1
Elmington	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.1	11.1
Walsingham	10.1	8.1	10.1	8.1	11.1

Cold Hands	204	251	251	204	251
Wing Tunes	251	251	251	251	251
Mr. Beethoven	251	251	251	251	251
Mathematics	251	251	251	251	251
Rock Night	251	251	251	251	251
Summer	251	251	251	251	251
Andy Serkis	251	251	251	251	251
Future Promises	251	251	251	251	251
Joy For Life	251	251	251	251	251
Exit Blues	251	251	251	251	251
Academism	251	251	251	251	251
Winter Horrors	251	251	251	251	251
Tom's Baseball 5	251	251	251	251	251
Sumo Or Gold	251	251	251	251	251

Each song is a quarter of an hour, prices 7.7

[illegible]

Diamond	65-1	65-4	65-1	65-1	65-1
Horse Channel	65-1	65-1	55-1	65-1	65-1
Indian Petroleum	55-1	55-1	55-1	55-1	55-1

Each-way, a quarter for each, places 1, 2, 3, 4

N THE GOLD CUP

52	53	54	55	56	57	58
5	4	2	1	5	P	3
0	2	1	1	2	0	0
25-1	6-1	7-1	10-3	9-2	20-1	25-1
10	8	9	9	7	9	10

2217 Second Favourites level
 or 3rd in last race: 80
 500g 5-2
 100g 10-1
 more than once in the past 10 years
 more than once in the past 10 years

ay.*

credit it?)

JAM GOLD CUP
1/1 Quarterway 6:15pm

14/1 Unsinkable Boxer

22/1 Simply Dashing

50/1 Imperial Call

55/1 Addington Boy

[illegible]

CHELTENHAM 3.55					
	C	M	L	S	T
Quintie Idrie	7.2	7.3	6.4	7.5	6.4
Hesperus Lead	7.2	7.3	6.4	7.5	6.4
Mermaid	6.1	6.2	5.3	7.1	5.2
County Ashby	6.1	6.2	5.4	6.3	5.1
John Sturt	11.4	8.1	11.4	9.3	8.1
Deaths Of Edward	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.1
Lost Option	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.1
Stalbridge Hill	20.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	20.1
Thymus	20.1	20.1	16.1	16.1	20.1
Cat Haines	20.1	25.1	25.1	20.1	20.1
King Tony	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1
Mr Beaton	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1
Shepherd	20.1	20.1	25.1	25.1	20.1
Strong Point	20.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	20.1
Andy Hume	20.1	20.1	25.1	25.1	20.1
Planned Promenade	20.1	20.1	25.1	25.1	20.1
Fly For Life	20.1	25.1	20.1	20.1	20.1
Earl Stuns	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Archambault	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1
Miller Heights	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1
Travis's Daughter S (10.1)	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
Stanza Di (10.1)	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1

CHELTENHAM 4.30						
	C	N	L	S	T	
Draw	52	61	73	61	71	70
Stance Teacher	61	61	72	64	71	72
Mobile Lord	61	61	62	132	61	
Derian Cavalier	71	74	61	74	74	
Piping Instructor	61	61	61	67	67	
Firewall	152	51	61	161	161	161
Autumnish	101	61	61	116	91	
Country Star	121	61	61	61	61	
Autumnish Hog	121	121	121	121	121	121
Lake Raker	161	161	161	161	161	161
Northern Lane	161	161	161	161	161	161
Socialist Father	261	261	261	261	261	261
Indians Judge	251	251	251	251	251	251
Reddishbones	461	461	461	461	461	461
Riches Pyle	661	661	661	661	661	661

CHELTENHAM 5.40						
	C	N	L	S	T	
Decayings	5/1	5/1	7/4	6/1	9/2	
Wells Co. Hts.	9/1	10/4	10/1	9/1	9/4	
Powder Corners	9/1	10/1	9/1	11/4	11/4	
St. Helens	10/1	20/1	9/1	11/4	10/1	
Brown River	10/1	10/1	10/1	14/1	10/1	
Ginger Fox	14/1	14/1	10/1	14/1	14/1	
Impero	14/1	14/1	14/1	10/1	14/1	
Master Dangler	20/1	20/1	14/1	10/1	20/1	
Somerset	20/1	9/1	14/1	14/1	10/1	
Stellar's Beauty	20/1	20/1	20/1	20/1	20/1	
Avonlea	25/1	20/1	25/1	25/1	25/1	
Conover	25/1	20/1	22/1	15/1	25/1	
Shasterville	20/1	25/1	20/1	20/1	25/1	
Two Yacants	25/1	20/1	20/1	20/1	25/1	
Executive Dicks	30/1	20/1	30/1	30/1	30/1	
Pinkalicious	30/1	25/1	20/1	20/1	25/1	

Shower	33-1	25-1	33-1	33-1	20-1
Very Speedy	25-1	25-1	33-1	20-1	25-1
Ready Marvel	40-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	20-1
Queen Move F.L.	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	30-1
Mobile M&L	40-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Sound Appeal	33-1	33-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Kathryn's Pet	40-1	40-1	30-1	33-1	40-1
West D'Acet	33-1	40-1	33-1	33-1	50-1
French Faze	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Disagree	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Home Countess	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Infamous Polysteen	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1

N THE GOLD CUP							
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	
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0	2J	3	1	2	0	0	
25-1	8-1	7-1	10-3	9-2	20-1	25-1	
10	8	9	9	7	9	10	

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or 3rd in last race: 80

8889 5-2

880 100-1

more than once in the past 10 years

more than once in the past 10 years

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1941	Unsinkable Boxer
1942	Simply Dashing
1943	Imperial Call
1944	Addington Boy
1945	Go Ballistic
1946	Senor El Betrutti

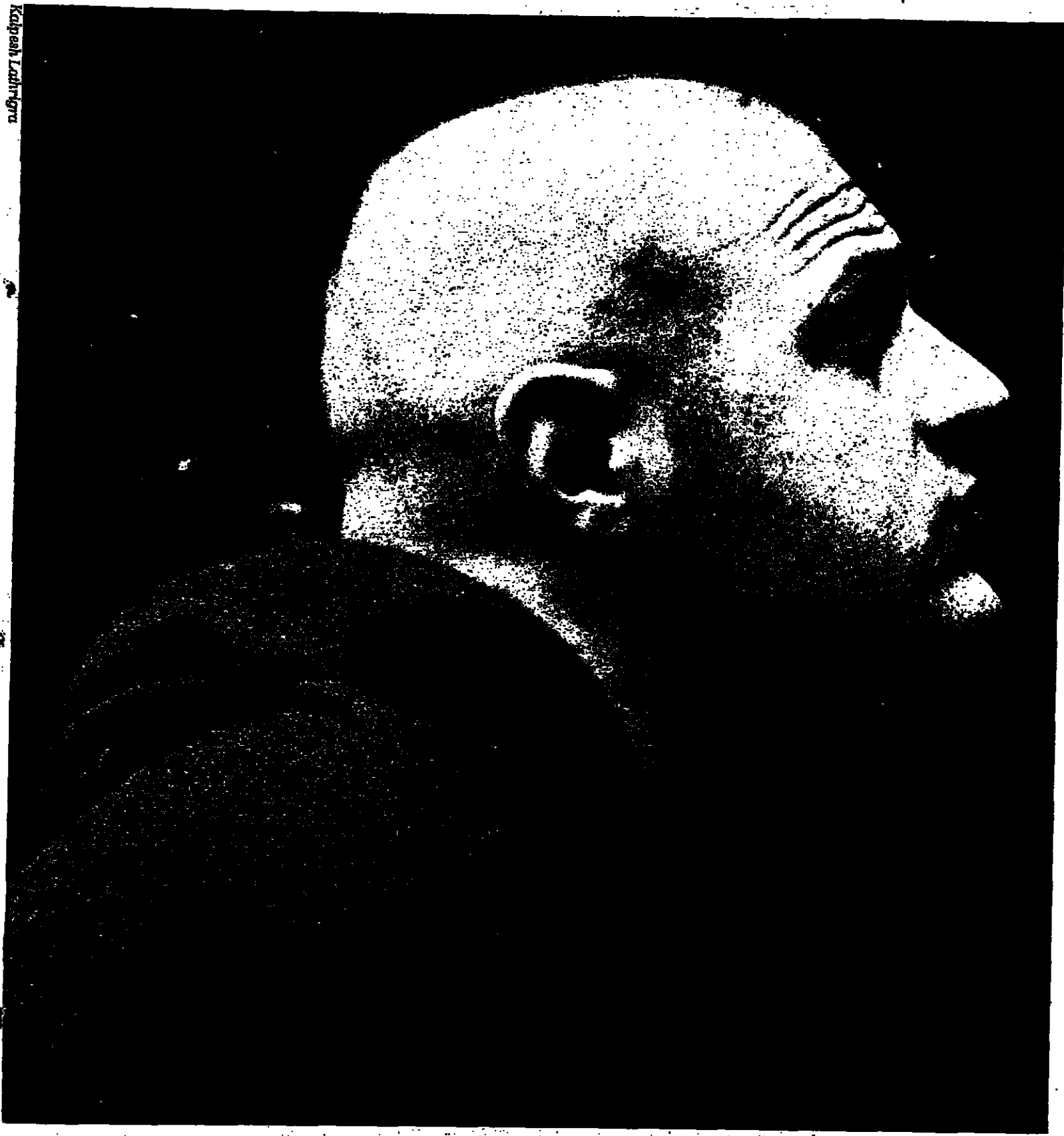
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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Prada's cool.
Gucci is posh.
Versace shows
you're rich.
But if you want
pure fashion with
an intelligent
streak, then this
year's British
Fashion Award
winner is the
designer for you.
Who's that boy?
Hussein Chalayan

Hussein Chalayan first came to the fashion world's attention when he buried his degree collection in a friend's back garden to discover how it would decompose. Now the avant-garde designer is finally being taken seriously. Last night, at a ceremony held at London's Natural History Museum, he won the prestigious British Designer of the Year award. He has previously been nominated three times. So why did it take him so long to win?

"Perhaps it is because the British have always been slightly suspicious of conceptual, so-called intellectual fashion," he says, "or perhaps it's because my clothes aren't sexy or sensationalist."

Or perhaps because it has taken him a long time to shake off his potty professor image. Not for him the histrionics or high camp posturing normally associated with the breed. He thinks carefully about each question before he answers it in much the same way as he agonises - and I mean agonises - over each and every garment before he offers it up to outside scrutiny.

In appearance, too, he is hardly a walking advertisement for high fashion. When I interviewed him he was, as always, dressed in low-key jeans, sweatshirt and clunky boots that have seen better days, as has his closely shaved head. A head of his hair has dropped out - presumably from stress.

"This is an all-encompassing job," he says, explaining his tired physical appearance. "It's mental, emotional, even neurological." He looks completely stumped of energy, lying back on a sofa, practically motionless apart from his knee, which jacks as if he's got a trapped nerve. "It's like a hair on my neck. I've had to train it to stop jerking, especially in important meetings."

Chalayan's reputation for obscurity started when he became the first designer in London to turn his catwalk shows into performance art. His performances featured dresses suspended by helium balloons, and razor-sharp suits that lit up with light-path patterns. He produced dresses made from unrippable paper that could be folded into their own envelopes and sent through the post. In one show he encased his

models' heads and faces with huge cones of polished wood. His "set" is a bare white cube, distorted by mirrors or walls that create dramatic perspectives, and featuring a live Gregorian choir. His latest invention is an electronically articulated plastic dress that spreads its wings as if coming in to land.

Chalayan has always been preoccupied with technology; at college he was always armed with textbooks on aerodynamics, philosophy and medicine rather than the latest issue of *Vogue*.

It wasn't so much the challenging nature of his work that posed problems, but rather his apparent lack of business nous, coupled with his perceived indifference to making wearable clothes. Prospective buyers were dazzled and baffled. But alongside his innovative "show pieces" he has never failed to produce clothes that have been cleaned of gimmicks.

Beneath the intellectual conceit of their presentation, the clothes themselves are simple and easy to wear. A jacket may defy the laws of pattern-cutting in its complexity, but the line is always pure.

International markets, accustomed to conceptual fashion shows, were quick to appreciate him. Last year Chalayan was appointed design chief of the TSE New York line, the luxury American label based in Manhattan. Ironically, the capital of commercial fashion was the first to acknowledge that he was capable of designing clothes to wear, and not just to gawp at in amazement. The high-street chain store Top Shop brought him in to design collections for them and, in fashion terms, you can't get more real than that.

Chalayan, who is now 28, has also been commissioned by the architect Zaha Hadid to design uniforms for the "mind" section of the Millennium Dome, and Turkish Cypriot Airlines have asked him to come up with a makeover for its flight attendants' uniforms, aeroplane interiors and logo. On top of all this, Chalayan's work is soon to be exhibited in galleries in Tokyo, Vienna, New York and Germany but he can't remember where exactly. Gradually, it seems, the world of design has embraced the Chalayan way of

thinking: rigorous, and with a certain innocence not normally associated with London's pyrotechnic designers.

Hussein Chalayan's background is as unconventional as his take on fashion. The only child of Turkish Cypriot parents, he was born in Nicosia in 1970. When he was five years old his parents' marriage broke up. At 12 he was plunged into English boarding-school life at Highgate School in north London, an experience he likens to being in the Army. His mother and aunt always fly over from Cyprus for his shows, while his hotelier father has been known to put on the backstage buffets.

After A-levels, he abandoned his plans to study architecture when a friend told him he would be "building office blocks all day" and instead embarked on fashion. He did a foundation course at Mid-Warwickshire College in the genteel, tea-room town of Leamington Spa, where he came up with fabrics printed with various cuts of meat. Then came four years at London's Central Saint Martin's School of Art and

boils down to business, it's a different issue." The problem, he says, is that the powerful, immensely influential American press bypasses London.

"It's because there are no major advertisers based here, like Gucci, Prada and Versace. None of us [British designers] have that sort of magazine spending power."

What about Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of American *Vogue*, who surprised everyone when she showed up for London Fashion Week last month?

"She only came because she was hosting an American *Vogue* party," says Chalayan, refusing to acknowledge the impact of her front-row presence at his show. But even the apparently indifferent Chalayan was genuinely pleased when, in a rare move for Anna Wintour, she congratulated him afterwards backstage. This was indeed a mark of favour from the high priestess of *Vogue*.

The theory issue of where Chalayan will choose to show in future is also dependent on the movements of his contemporary Alexander McQueen, who is rumoured (hysterically so, in London fashion circles) to be off to New York.

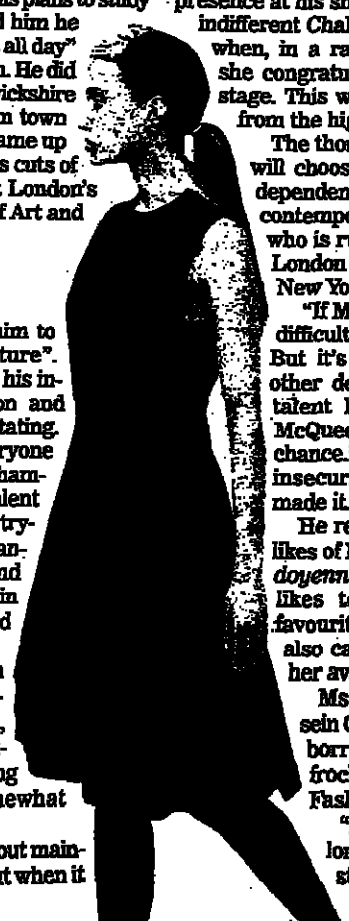
"If McQueen goes it will be more difficult for designers in London. But it's a question of discovering other designers. There's plenty of talent here, other than me and McQueen, who need to be given a chance." There's no hint here of insecurity. Chalayan knows he's made it.

He refuses to be taken in by the likes of Isabella Blow, the fruit-cake doyenne of British fashion, who likes to parade around in her favourite designers' clobber and also causes daily sensations with her avant-garde hats.

Ms Blow recently asked Hussein Chalayan whether she might borrow one of his sensational frocks to wear to the British Fashion Awards.

"It's fine," he replied, "just as long as you don't wear a lobster on your head."

BY REBECCA LOWTHORPE



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HOW YOU ARE

Europe: what now?

Sir: Following the resignation of the European Commission members, can we now expect an addition to this summer's European elections, to allow us – the common people – to choose our own Commissioners, thus allowing more accountability?
ANDREW BOWDLER
Pokhara, Nepal

Sir: I despair for those on hospital waiting lists; for teachers and for our children in crumbling schools; for our fishermen; for the thousands of small businessmen put out of business by overbearing regulations and EU officialdom.

The resources, financial and human, that have been dedicated to the unworkable collective partnership that the EU is, can now be shown by the fatal report on the workings of the Commission to have been wasted.

It is time that we stop pursuing through the EU our goal of peaceful, mutually beneficial relationships with our neighbours. The Commission is beyond redemption. Our government's time should now be spent looking at alternatives outside of the EU to achieve this aim. We should demand repatriation of powers to Westminster, to give our MPs the ammunition to solve the problems in our country.

DOUGLAS ELLISON
Campaign for an Independent Britain
London SE5

Sir: What does the word "resign" mean nowadays? For EU Commissioners it appears to mean: hold a press conference, appoint yourself back to your old jobs as "caretakers" and then, in the case of the British pair, wait for the Blair government to reappoint you. One wonders what their definition of "responsibility" would be.

Dr DAVID J TIMSON
Kidlington, Oxfordshire

Sir: Let us accept all their resignations (and no golden handshakes) and put in people who have a sense of honour and responsibility and know the meaning of honesty. That would automatically rule out politicians, trade unionists and bankers. Our own Civil Service has a lot to be proud of and could act as a template. Failing that we could do a lot worse than replace the Commissioners with corner-shop owners, taxi drivers and fishermen.

MARTIN ANDERSON
Bray, Berkshire

Argentina's case

Sir: I welcome the reference to the United Nations, made by J Cheek, R Cockwell and S Halford in their letter of 16 March ("Falklands freedom"), since the world organisation has a significant part to play in the South Atlantic problem.

At the same time, I find the reference selective and incomplete for, while recognising the principle of self-determination, the UN has equally stated the primacy of territorial integrity in certain colonial situations. Such pre-eminence also found an echo in the International Court of Justice. Accordingly, the UN has explicitly rejected the application of the principle of self-determination to the "Falklands/Malvinas Question". It could not be otherwise, given that the islands were initially part of Argentina and ever since their colonial occupation Argentines and other South Americans have been banded from settling there. Self-determination would not do justice to pre-existent Argentine rights and would legitimise the forcible and continued exclusion of the original population.

The inescapable historic and legal fundamentals of this issue and its geographic reality, make a constructive and forward-looking

dialogue all the more advisable. On its part, following relevant UN resolutions and like a friendly democracy, Argentina is firmly committed to searching for a negotiated solution with Britain. Furthermore, as stated in the Argentine Constitution, it remains bound to pursue its claim with due respect for the way of life of the present inhabitants.

ROGELIO PFISTER
Ambassador
Embassy of the Argentine Republic
London W1

Sir: Why can't Britain face up in the Falklands issue?

If the rival British and Argentine claims went for judgement to the International Court, the balance of probability is that the Court would find in favour of Argentina. Certainly the British action in taking over the Islands in 1832 would be unthinkable now.

Nevertheless the islanders say that they are only prepared to settle down and live in peace and friendship with Argentina after the Argentines have dropped their claim. Until they do there will be no access to the Islands for Argentines and no talks. This is impractical politics. It is also a permanent finger in the eye of Argentina. The islanders justify their stance by emphasising their Britishness and denigrating Argentines and Argentina.

The islanders deserve a permanent British guarantee of their security, democracy and way of life; that is such things as language, law and education. It is up to Britain to find a way of bringing Argentina to join in this guarantee.

The islanders did not create the problem. It is a problem between Britain and Argentina; and there is no escaping responsibility by saying we must leave it to the 1,500 voters on the Islands to decide.

We should look again at Prince Charles's words. He hoped that the two democracies, one big and one little, could live together in peace and friendship. He did not say this

could only happen once the Argentines had dropped their claim. It is up to Britain to make a start and open discreetly a dialogue.

ALASTAIR FORSYTH
Eye, Suffolk

People's palace

Sir: John Walsh's article "A whiff of the secret state in a suburb" (15 March) is an excellent advert for the Crystal Palace Campaign's "war" against the rebuilding of the site of the old Crystal Palace, but there is another side to this story, involving the Single Regeneration Budget grant for the small parts of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark converging at the top of the hill.

The SRB grant will improve the area, neglected by all the councils, and offer people employment training, support for local community groups and practical help for small businesses.

Sir: Nick Martin-Clark (letter, 17 March) says that Rosemary Nelson's murder means that there can be no immediate decommisioning. Presumably the argument is that republicans will need their arms to protect themselves against further attacks. This cannot apply to weapons such as Semtex, heavy machine-guns, rocket launchers and detonators. If the IRA were to decommision these weapons, that would provide the "credible beginning" David Trimble has asked for to allow the peace process to proceed.

STEPHEN FLOWDEN
Storden NW1

Sir: Andrew Marshall's article about Bluewater shopping centre (Comment, 16 March) claims, "There is not even a fish shop in Maidstone any more. Safeway did away with that."

Yellow pages lists two fish

Development of the fenced-off, dangerous mass of rubble alongside Crystal Palace Parade will remove the seedy atmosphere and give a glass entertainment centre for South London. The building will not "dominate the skyline"; it will be invisible to most of the residents. This is not a green site; it is a mass of building foundations on a dump shamefully neglected for 60 years.

The arrangement of the 1,500 members of the Crystal Palace Campaign is breathtaking – "so much professional muscle... and we're still not winning". There are 250,000 people in the Single Regeneration Budget area.

In its heyday the Crystal Palace was known all over the English-speaking world for its brass-band festivals, its concerts, its cage-bird shows, its educational exhibitions, its football – ordinary Victorian and Edwardian events in the pleasure park. I hope it can be used again as a leisure complex and pleasure park.

I have a vested interest because my great-grandfather was a trustee of the Crystal Palace and my family always said it was burnt down in 1936 to celebrate my arrival.

PAT PALMER
Beckenham, Kent

Family values

Sir: I agree with Natasha Walter (Comment, 15 March) that a society which regards Kim Sparrow's efforts to bring up her daughter as less productive than, say, selling double glazing, is in a bad way. This is not simply a feminist issue but illustrates a deeper problem.

Families, while necessary to the world of business, are not an integral part of it. Workers must be fed, washed and rested to work again and a new generation of workers must be reared and trained. This domestic work is necessary for the accumulation of capital but in itself produces no

profit and individual firms have no direct interest in paying for it.

The mass entry of women into the job market on equal terms with men has served to weaken the unions and lower the price of labour. To point this out renders one vulnerable; who, save chauvinists – and losers – can object to equality of competition? Once children enter the picture however the price of a market society becomes clear. I am resolved to avoid entering a contest with women for most-favoured-victim status, but it is worth noting that Mr Brown and New Labour have nothing to offer men as fathers. Unpaid parental leave is useless because even if men could afford to take it they fear losing their job or promotion to whoever is willing to work a more insane number of hours.

If sexual equality is to mean anything more than a politically correct excuse for the exploitation of labour we must put a price on "family values".

ROBERT CLAYTON
Higher Fardale, Isle of Man

Sir: Caroline Millar (letter, 16 March) could not make the point better – not all mothers wish to work outside the home while their children are small. Neither do I, though I am a father, not a mother.

Thank God for my partner, who works some of the time so that I can look after our daughter some of the time. Thank God that our earnings and career prospects are similar so that economics does not force one of us into full-time work and the other out of work altogether. Thank God that our jobs welcome flexible hours, part-time and working from home. Thank God for grandparents who help out in any tight squeeze.

Because my wife's opportunity in the workplace is the same as mine, my opportunity to participate in childcare is the same as hers. This is the future. The main winner is our daughter, who gets two close parental bonds.

DUNCAN FISHER
Crickhowell, Powys

School tragedy

Sir: While at school, considerable numbers of children play an extremely dangerous game, strangling each other to the point of unconsciousness. This behaviour continues undetected by the teachers responsible for their care and unchecked over a long period. One of the children dies (report, 17 March).

The coroner finds it "difficult to criticise" the school, and the responsible senior member of staff accepts that it is beyond him to put a stop to these and similar activities. There are no screaming headlines about the dangers to our children from uncontrolled games "behind the bike sheds", no ministerial interviews on the early evening news telecasts promising a complete shake-up of out-of-classroom supervision practices, no demands for an independent inquiry of any kind. The child is dead, and as the coroner remarked, "there is only so much you can do."

This is very strange. There ought to be some kind of public outcry. No, hang on. All this was at Eton, one of the great public schools, not a state comprehensive school at all! Well, that's all right then.

RON SONNET
Southsea, Hampshire

Chicken legs

Sir: I can only assume that fruit flies are yukky already as the yuk factor was not heard as a response to experiments some years ago that caused legs to grow where a fly's eyes should have been. Contrast the outcry over the "sinister" four-legged chicken (letter, 16 March).

Is confusion over chickens being a food source and the panic over GM foods obscuring what might have been intended as basic work in cell development, providing an insight into cancer growth? Somewhere along the way the chain of the scientist's duty to explain, the science journalist's obligation to report clearly, and the public's requirement to gain a basic understanding of science has seemingly broken over this issue.

MARK TREGLOWN
The Open University
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Gerald Durrell writes in *My Family and Other Animals* that among his collection in Corfu, preserved in methylated spirits, was a four-legged chicken. This would have been in the late 1930s. Has Greece once more led the world?

MICKY WILLIAM
London SW11

Choosing chaos

Sir: Gillian Shephard, the shadow Transport Secretary, has called for children to walk or cycle to school in order to reduce the levels of traffic on the roads (report, 16 March). What a great idea – if only their schools were within walking or cycling distance.

The grant-maintained status of schools and parents' school choice, implemented by the Tories, has produced a shambles whereby children cannot attend their local schools. Parents in Bishops Cleeve are now having to send their children to a school in Stansted, Essex, up to nine miles away, because all the local schools are full of children from outside the town. One child actually lives next door to his local school but will have to be transported to Stansted.

JOHN R E BELL
Bishops Cleeve, Hertfordshire

Pinned down

Sir: Nicholas Lezard (Irritations of Modern Life, 17 March) is guilty of another irritation when he refers to a person's "PIN number". "PIN" stands for "personal identification number". "PIN number" stands for "personal identification number". This irritant can also be seen in such usages as "AC current" ("alternating current") and "laser light" ("light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation light").

A J EDWARDS
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Cuba No 4: Kids play basketball on the streets of Havana

Michael MacSweeney

IN BRIEF

shops. Try them; they're good. Then there is the traditional wet fish counter at Safeway, Maidstone. Is it really supermarkets' fault that shoppers choose the convenience of buying fresh fish at the same time as other food, because they no longer want to trudge from shop to shop? Supermarkets are a symptom of social change, not the cause.

TONY COMBEE
Public Affairs
Safeway plc
Hoyes, Middlessex

Sir: I have wondered why the US government has chosen this moment to escalate the issue of banana imports to the level of a trade war. Could it be that it intends to use the issue as a bargaining counter to be

dropped if the UK agrees to accept GM foods?

PETER MOSS
Chippenhams, Wiltshire

Sir: As co-editor of a "gender-sensitive" prayerbook for Britain's Liberal Jewish community, I read with much agreement the Rev Bruce Deakin's Faith and Reason column "God our Mother is not a trendy affectation" (13 March). He could have added to his quotations from the last chapter of Isaiah: "Thus says the Eternal One... As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you..." But it is not time to lay to rest the misinformation that Abba translates as "Daddy"? In Aramaic Abba just meant "Father". Only in modern Hebrew is it used as a term of endearment.

Rabbi JOHN D RAYNER
London N12

Sick parrots, gay dogs and the king of PR men

I WENT up to London the other day to see the Monet exhibition – or more accurately, to see the queues for the Monet exhibition – but before I could even get there, who should I bump into but my old friend Adrian Wardour-Street, the king of public relations. Or if Max Clifford should happen to read this, the heir apparent, at least, to public relations.

We merged into a little authentic coffee bar, and Adrian asked me if I wanted a "latte".

"What's that?" I said.

"I'm not entirely sure, but everyone's asking for it these days, so I do as well. *Due latte, per favore*. So, how's tricks?"

"Fine," I said. "And you?"

Always lead the conversation back to Adrian, that's my motto. That way, he never gets bored.

"Working in television this week," he said. "Outside my usual orbit, but I'm doing a favour for a friend who needs some PR doing for a new programme he and the BBC have cooked up together. He has a small freelance TV company that has persuaded the BBC to let them make a trend-setting, mould-breaking series for them, on the grounds that they have come up with an idea that nobody has ever thought of."

"Impossible," I said. "All ideas have been done before."

"That's true," said Adrian, "but sometimes people come up with a combination of two ideas that has never been tried before. My friend has come up with just such a combination: sex and animals."

"On the contrary," I said. "David Attenborough's already done all

that. He has been through the mating patterns of every possible living species."

"Not sex and nature," said Adrian. "I'm talking about sex and animals. That's different. You know that animal programmes are very popular on TV at the moment? *Animal Hospital* etc? All those poor ailing pets who get well on the spot for fear of being touched by Rolf Harris's rough Australian hands? And you know that homosexual programmes and characters are also very big right now? *Queer as Folk*, for one. And what about that bloke from *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*?"

"Yes, yes, yes..."

"My mate is combining the two ideas in a new programme about homosexual dogs. Bound to be a mass sensation."



MILES KINGSTON

'Ever seen two male dogs mounting each other? Course you have. Why do you think they do it?'

"They'll never let him do it." "They've already commissioned him. Series of six half-hours. New

programme called *Gay Dogs and Englishmen*.

"Shouldn't that strictly be *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*?"

"Yeah, but that title's already taken – they're using it for another programme about the British and rabies."

I thought about it a moment. "You're not seriously trying to tell me that the BBC hopes to boost its audience figures by attracting homosexual dogs?"

"Of course not. You don't really think it's sick parrots that watch Rolf Harris, do you?"

I paused again.

"Do you think that there really are such things as homosexual dogs, Adrian?"

"Of course there are. Why else do you think people would talk about 'gay dogs'?"

"I don't think homosexuality is found much in nature."

"Dogs don't operate in nature, son. They operate in man's environment and they pick up all man's strange little ways. Ever seen two male dogs mounting each other? Course you have. Why do you think they do it? Because they like it, of course! As a matter of fact, there are plenty of dogs pretending to be happily married with puppies, who are actually raving gays on the quiet."

"Dogs in the closet?"

"That's the subject of programme 4," said Adrian happily. "*When Dogs Come Out*..."

"Sounds like a load of tosh to me," I said.

"Of course it's a load of tosh," he said, "but it's what the BBC wants. You ask Alan Yentob next time you

see him. It's cross-genre programmes they're after. Cross-genre is the new buzz word."

"What does cross-genre mean?"

"Oh, it means doing one programme in the style of another. It's what the BBC does when it doesn't know what the hell it wants. It means doing cookery as a quiz show... or a really serious documentary on something quite trivial, like the history of the drawing pin... Or doing apparently quite serious programmes about homosexuality in dogs."

"Only thing is, we're not sure if the public is quite ready for it, and we'll have to start spreading the word, so if you could mention it in your column somewhere, old boy, just start preparing the ground..."

"Consider it done, Adrian, churn," I said.

JP 11/15/89

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School tragedy

Sir: While at school, considerable numbers of children play an extremely dangerous game, of which the name is self-explanatory. This behaviour continues into the teachers' playground, where the teachers are responsible for the care and protection of the children. The teachers' playground is a dangerous place, and the children are in jeopardy. The teachers' playground is a dangerous place, and the children are in jeopardy. The teachers' playground is a dangerous place, and the children are in jeopardy.

Chicken legs

Sir: I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken.

Choosing chaos

Sir: I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken. I am a chicken, and I am writing to you because I am a chicken.

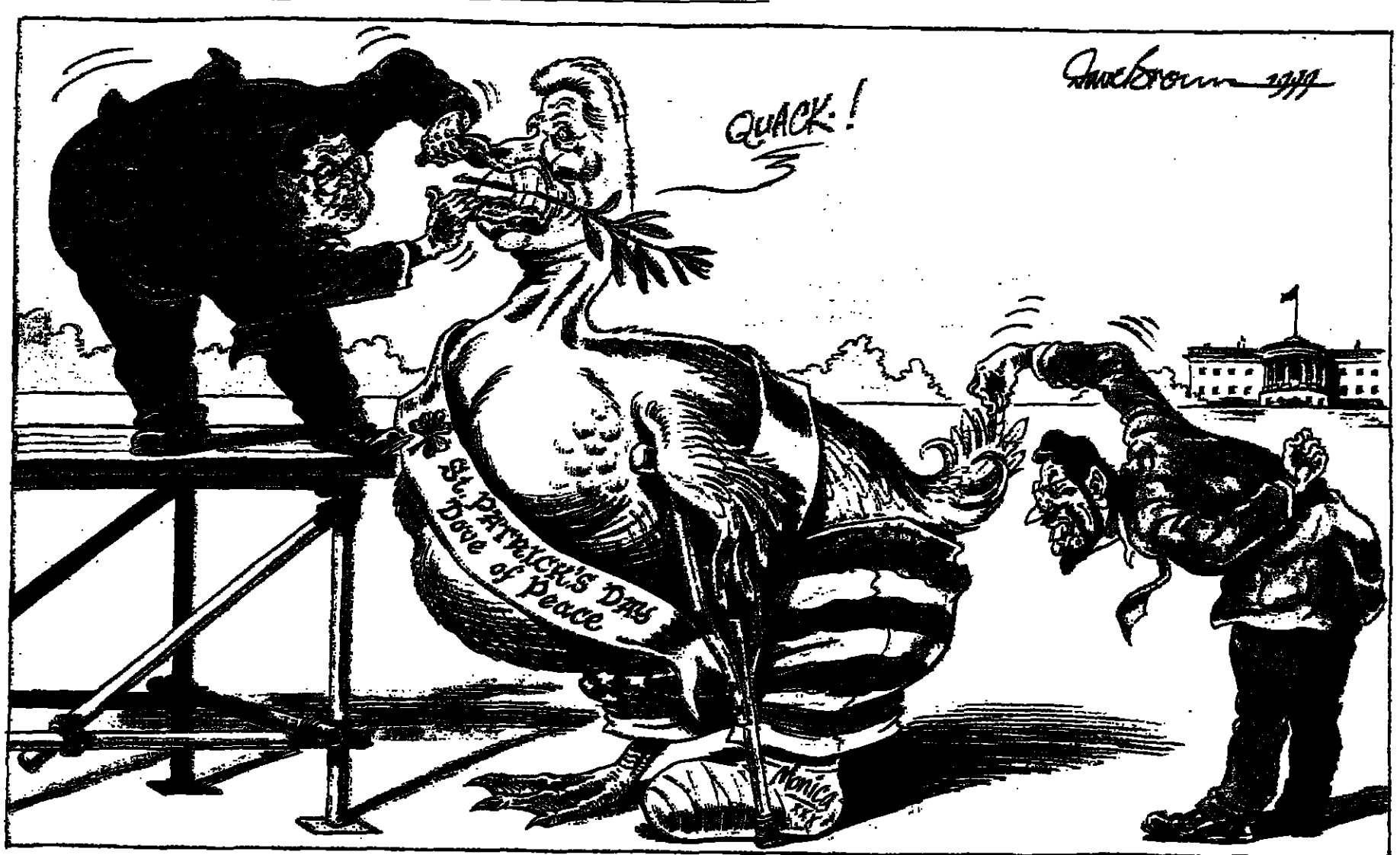
Don't sacrifice our four-year-olds to an election pledge

DISTURBING NEWS from the Allsorts playgroup in Weymouth, Dorset. The supervisor, Denise Finney, says that her playgroup is losing its four-year-olds to the local schools, which are introducing "pre-school" classes to capitalise on the Government's commitment to education for the under-fives, and the funding that goes with it. Nor is the Allsorts playgroup alone. The Pre-School Learning Alliance claims that as many as 1,700 playgroups are in jeopardy this year, and that a total of 6,000 could close by 2002 if ministers fail to take action. This represents a loss of about a third of the total number of such groups. It should not be dismissed as special pleading by nursery campaigners. It goes to the very heart of the whole issue of educational standards. The standard - and suitability - of pre-school education is one of the main determinants of a child's later educational achievement and thus its prospects in later life. It is crucial.

The minister responsible, Margaret Hodge, disputes the nursery lobby's figures but agrees that the situation is "worrying". So it is. Common sense suggests that not all four-year-olds are equally suited to going to school rather than to a playgroup. There is at least as wide a variety of social skills and abilities at that age as at any other. Curriculum-based learning does not suit all. The Government is keen to promote diversity in other stages of education, but there is a clear danger that there will be less choice available to parents of the very young. There are unwelcome signs that parents are being coerced into accepting a school's offer of a place at four years for their children as the surest way of securing entry to the primary school. The introduction of the minimum wage is also a complicating factor. Playgroups are largely voluntary, but some do employ staff. It is right that those employees should receive a fair wage. But the price of that will be higher fees passed on to parents and the risk that playgroups will be restricted to the offspring of those on comfortable incomes. The notion of educational apartheid being implemented at such a young age is profoundly disturbing.

The Government's guarantee of places in education for all four-year-olds and for a doubling of places for three-year-olds (to 190,000 by 2002) is, of course, welcome and long overdue. But excessive concentration on a narrow performance target again jeopardises the real point of the Government's policy - to increase choice, encourage diversity and raise standards.

Mrs Hodge has pledged £500,000 to "tide over" playgroups until the working families tax credit gives parents more money to spend on playgroup fees. There will be an independent inquiry. All welcome, but the Government should not mistake such moves for an effective policy. The playgroups deserve to be treated seriously.



How fares the Empire now, Mr Cook?

NEW LABOUR has got around to modernising that most unpromising of subjects, the British Empire. The publication yesterday of the White Paper "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity - Britain and the Overseas Territories" marks a welcome change from the benign neglect that most of these Cinderella communities have suffered. With the exceptions of the Falklands, Gibraltar and Montserrat, we have paid them scant attention. They are a mixed bag. Bermuda, the largest by population and the wealthiest, is what must now pass for a jewel in the imperial crown. Empire loyalists will be interested to learn that we still retain sovereignty over Ascension Island (population 1,100), the aptly named Inhospitable Island (population nil, part of Tristan da Cunha), Oeno

(population nil, part of the Pitcairn Islands), and, of course, the Chagos Archipelago, also known as the British Indian Ocean Territory. They are a curious collection. By far the most important move in the White Paper is the return of full British citizenship, with the right of abode, that was restricted to the residents of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. There was more than a whiff of racism about this, and the removal of the opportunity to work, train and study in Britain caused hardship and impeded economic progress, most notably in St Helena. Sadly, this is not recognised by all. The Shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard has raised the spectre of immigration. Perhaps it's just as well he's taking early retirement. It is, of course, extremely unlikely that the wealthy citizens of Bermuda will be swapping their shorts for raincoats and heading for Bermuda. Even if the entire populations of the poorer micro-communities turned up in Britain, the numbers involved would be minuscule. The promised improvements in human rights and financial regulation in the Overseas Territories are laudable, provided they are implemented sensitively. But one important question has been ducked. When we entered the 20th century we ruled over a quarter of the Earth's surface and nobody bothered to ask why. As we enter the next century it is curious that even this latest White Paper fails to answer that same question. The Empire remains a thoroughly unmodern affair.

Where there's muck

YORKSHIRE MAY want to become the first English region to have its own directly elected parliament, but it is going to have to drop some of its old traits if it is to get the ball rolling. The £25,000 that the Campaign for Yorkshire has set aside for a lobbyist may be enough to make headway in Harrogate. But in London, that won't get you a dinner with a junior minister, let alone a question raised in the House.

From the commission's corpse a new democratic Europe could arise

FOR THE more cultured Europhobes Tuesday's resignation, en masse, of the European Commission demonstrates, once again, the inevitable failure of supranational organisations. Without the self-identity and, therefore, the legitimacy of the nation state, such bodies are bound to become collections of corrupt, sweaty, ridiculous emu-chicks, compensating themselves in gold for what they lack in poise. The League of Nations, the International Olympic Committee, the UN, the Holy Roman Empire, the Soviet Union and the Khazars of the Golden Horde - they could all be prayed in aid. Only Nato and the British Empire seem, somehow, to be exempted from this list.

For such people human self-organisation reached its zenith in the golden era of the European nation state - that short, historic moment sandwiched between the misfortune of Germany and the onset of the Second World War. It is unsurprising that some of them are now calling for the repatriation of powers that have been "lost" since then to the EU. This week Mr Bill Cash (apparently supported by William Hague) called for fishery policy to be handed back to national governments.

The problem is that, within a few years, the only things our competing free fisherfolk would find in our seas would be three cod, two sole and a hake. And then we could go to war over who had the right to catch those. The first half of this century was, in terms of human loss, the most violent and destructive in the continent's history - and the European project



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Such bodies are bound to become collections of corrupt, sweaty, ridiculous emu-chicks

of much of this article, so far I find myself elated by this week's events. All of a sudden, as though a fog has lifted from a mountain peak, I have seen, spread out, what Europe could be like. Instead of the deadening bureaucratic complacency of the established pro-Europeans (and their sponsors back in the much-vaulted nation states), a brief vision has been afforded of a democratic, disputatious, vibrant Europe. From this week, instead of two camps there are three. First, of course, there are those who wish to discourage the project, and - that discouragement falling - wish to disengage from it. This is, I think, the logic of the Hague position. The second is the old school of Euro-dither, which will want to do as little as possible in the wake of the mass resignations. This group wishes for the advance-

ment of union, while refusing to give up the power and privileges exerted by national governments. After all, the Commission in its present form is their creature, kept undemocratic, because to make it democratic would be to make it a threat. And then - oh joy - there is the new Third Way. Which is to take hold of the project and make it ours; to create a proper European political entity. In this entity all decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level. And all should be subject to the three great virtues of openness, transparency and accountability. So People's Europe would require that decisions taken at the European level should be democratically accountable to bodies elected at that level. Thus, the European Parliament should have powers of scrutiny, censure and recall, complete with the full paraphernalia of hearings and vetoes. Indeed, there is a case for allowing it to appoint the commission president. Unfortunately the closed-list system of proportional representation, by which MEPs will be elected in the UK, will not suit the People's Europe. There will need to be a distinction between the individual candidates of the different parties. That's OK, Tony, anyone can make a mistake - let's change it to an open-list system for next time. And why should not commissioners be directly elected in their own countries, such elections to coincide with those for the European Parliament? The idea floated yesterday, that they be formally approved by the House of Commons, adds little accountability. We can do much, much better. The establishment objection to this surfeit of democracy tends to be a technocratic one. It will (they argue) lead to an unwelcome politicisation of institutions that rely upon consensus, and to a tendency for commissioners to play to the public gallery, rather than to do their jobs in stolid and unspectacular fashion. These are, indeed, the drawbacks of democracy. But what Europe needs right now is democracy. And the problem with providing that democracy is not supra-nationality, but nationality. So, of course, it is the Europhobes who feel most threatened by all this talk of new institutions and accountability. That's why the most intelligent of them, including Michael Portillo, have been careful not to crow too loudly this week, for fear that we take the demands for greater accountability seriously. Scratch 'em and many Europhobes are nationalists first and democrats second. For them the nation is more important than the precise type of government. An independent Britain run by a junta of Army officers would be preferable to a united Europe controlled by a multilingual parliament. That is not, I think, the view of the British people. This may we will hold elections for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly, with scarcely a rumble of discontent from the English shires so far. And just as we have been perfectly able to encompass new political entities in those parts of our country, so we are also capable of participating in new democratic forums that cover the whole of Europe. Nest-ce pas?

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"He's not very bright - he failed his 11-plus."
Phyllis Prescott,
the Deputy Prime Minister's mother, on her son

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"No kingdom has ever had as many civil wars as the kingdom of Christ."
Charles Montesquieu,
French philosopher

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CLINTON AND the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland should try their best to dissuade the pro-British parties from denying Sinn Féin the cabinet posts it won. At the same time, they should seek ways to build confidence, perhaps by negotiating a staged and general disarmament by May 2000 and speedier creation of a police force that better reflects the province's ethnic composition. Clinton may prod, but on this feast of Ireland's patron saint ultimate responsibility for preserving peace belongs with the people of Northern Ireland. *Dallas Morning News*

ALTHOUGH TRADITIONAL in recent years, it is still odd that Northern Ireland politicians are transplanted to Washington on St Patrick's Day to engage in domestic political problems. Clinton will do his best to square circles, but the outcome may not be decided until

MONITOR
ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Irish and American comment on St Patrick's Day and the peace process

the politicians return and come up against the April deadline. They must keep their options open, with no more painting themselves into corners. *Belfast Telegraph*

NORTHERN IRELAND'S political leaders will be in Washington for festivities marking St Patrick's Day. Much has been achieved this past year, but there is serious business still to

be done. Monday's horrific murder of Northern Ireland attorney Rosemary Nelson was a bloody and brutal attempt by those who live by the bullet and bomb to destroy the political process and the peace that the people of Northern Ireland have so courageously fought to forge. They will not succeed. In the name of Rosemary Nelson and all the other victims who have died, we must go on. *Boston Globe (Marjorie Moulam)*

TODAY PROVIDES a glimpse of what could be. All and every shade of opinion is out claiming St Patrick for themselves, though in different ways. It should be possible for all the different flags and emblems to fly together instead of AT each other. It can only happen when no one is trying to control or dominate anyone else. In that case people might find they don't need flags and emblems to defend their identities with. *The Irish News*

I can hardly hear myself shop

هكذا من الأصل

If shop

shops on the main have the National...
...the other...
...the other...
...the other...

The greatest show on earth



HAMISH MCRAE

On Wall Street, the young and inexperienced have been right, the old and experienced wrong

THAT MAGIC 10,000 on the Dow - it means nothing and it means everything. It means nothing in the sense that the number itself is arbitrary and the Dow Jones index is a narrow measure of the price of a small selection of big US companies. But it means everything in the sense that it symbolises the extraordinary, even raucous, self-confidence of the American financial and business communities.

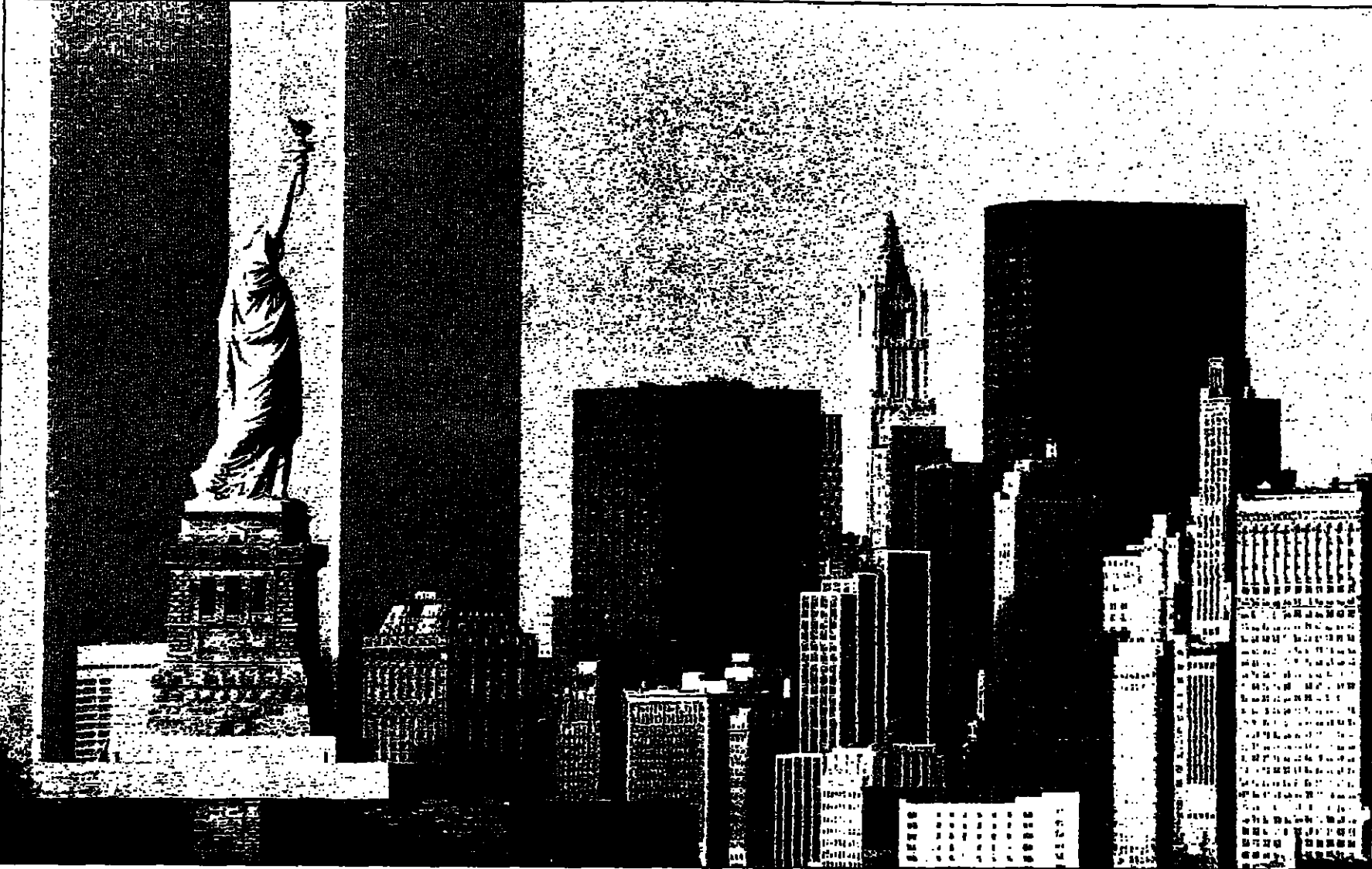
Reach the magic figure of 10,000, as on Tuesday, and it is as if America had rocketed into the stratosphere, where growth could be endless. Go below that figure, as the Dow did yesterday, and the doomsters come out to say how overvalued American stocks are and how near to ending is the boom.

I spent a couple of days in Los Angeles last week at a financial conference. California in general and LA in particular are on an up at the moment, having seemingly put the problems of riots and earthquakes behind them. But any visitor to the States will pick up the same feeling of commercial self-confidence. The President may be, depending on your point of view, a wounded hero or a sad joke, but the success of the economy is unquestioned; it is the greatest show on earth.

It is not hard to see why. The US has enjoyed the longest boom it has ever had in peacetime: eight years of uninterrupted growth. Unemployment is the lowest in the developed world, lower even on official figures than Japan and vastly lower than continental Europe. The living standards of the majority (though not of the poorest) have risen steadily. Crime is plunging (though at the cost of high prison rolls). Investment, particularly in information technology, is soaring.

New Internet-related and other high-technology businesses are bursting out. Thanks to the boom, the US government's accounts are at last back in surplus, while state and local governments suddenly have surpluses too. State governors and city mayors are announcing new spending programmes.

The most wonderful thing about this great burst of prosperity, shout the market enthusiasts, is that while all Americans who want to work can participate directly in it by



The soaring Dow Jones, like the Manhattan skyline, symbolises the extraordinary, even raucous, self-confidence of American business

getting a job, the 40 per cent of Americans who own shares get a cut of the pickings without stirring from their bunks.

By contrast, to these masters of the universe, the rest of the world appears drab and second-rate. Japan remains flat on its back. The rest of East Asia is struggling, with even China slowing down. Europe appears preoccupied with its petty squabbles and its bloated welfare systems. As for Russia and Brazil - well, they're bust, aren't they? No wonder everyone wants to pile into the dollar and Wall Street, and dump the euro and the yen.

At a visible level, this euphoria translates into a "shop till you drop" culture. On Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, it is canary-coloured Bentleys and valet parking, but the mass spending is on the goods that are being loaded into the pick-up trucks outside the discount shopping centres. Rich America is spending on things to put in its new monster houses. But the booming consumption numbers come not from the few but from the many. Middle America is living well - even if it is having to work very hard for the dream.

For, yes, there is a darker side to the boom. For the talented, the

skilled and the qualified, the last eight years have been wonderful. For the people lower down the ladder, it has been tough. For someone without any qualifications beyond the age of 18 real wages are some 30 per cent lower than they were 20 years ago. For many families, maintaining the standard of living means having two wage-earners instead of one.

Beyond this, there is the serious concern that the boom must soon approach its end. Experience suggests that a recession will come. The household savings rate is negative; people spend more than they earn to keep the economy and their own standard of living up. The country's current account deficit has also soared, as exports to the troubled economies of East Asia and Latin America have plunged and imports have flooded in.

Meanwhile Wall Street and the economy are seemingly dancing a dangerous tango: soaring Wall Street prices underpin consumer demand, while strong consumer demand underpins Wall Street prices. The dividend yield on US shares, which between 1960 and 1970 was 3-4 per cent and which reached 6 per cent in 1981, is now down to 1.5 per cent. By historical

standards this seems dangerously low - or, put the other way round, share prices are dangerously high.

The trouble is, no one can remember bad times. The last sustained downturn in US securities was in 1982. No professional under the age of 30 has gone through a prolonged bear market, and most of the people on the trading floors in New York are under the age of 40. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, famously referred to the markets' "irrational exuberance" a couple of years ago, when Wall Street was some 30 per cent lower than it was yesterday. Exuberance, yes, but irrational?

The embezzlement is rational to someone to whom each dip in the market has been swiftly reversed and therefore has turned out to be a great buying opportunity. On Wall Street, the young and inexperienced have been right, while the old and experienced - those who stay in their jobs - have been wrong.

How should the rational outsider react to all this? There seem to me to be two propositions, which are apparently in conflict but are equally right. The first is that Wall Street reflects American exceptionalism. US companies great and small, particularly small, have lit-

ted their game in an astonishing way over the last 15 or 20 years. The system is delivering an extraordinary boom in productivity and innovation, and Wall Street is right to celebrate.

The second is that Wall Street has been over-celebrating this triumph: it has been partying too hard and too long. There has, over the centuries, been a long history of market manias, from the South Sea Bubble in London and the tulip mania in the Netherlands, to the Roaring Twenties in America. The American economic performance has been terrific, but the price Wall Street has been putting on its players is too high.

So there will be a reckoning. At some stage - and I am more worried about next year than this one - the US economy will come off the boil and face a period of much slower growth. There may be a recession, but even if there isn't, Wall Street will be shaken.

It is impossible to predict the timing or the exact circumstances of the end of the boom, still less the pattern of the subsequent recovery. My instinct is that the present economic momentum in the US is so strong that it will carry on for some months yet. When the break comes, it will be a shock, simply because so

few people have any experience of bad times. But once the shock has reverberated around the nation, America Inc will pick itself up, dust itself down and resume its growth.

And the rest of us? It used to be said that if America sneezed, the rest of the world caught a cold. At the moment the rest of the world has the cold - in Europe it has been little more than a sniffle, but parts of East Asia are recovering from pneumonia. I would worry if neither Japan nor Europe had managed a stronger recovery by the time American growth turned down, for someone else will have to take the baton of the world economy.

Britain is in a most interesting position. We are not important in the world economy: we are only 4 per cent of world GDP. But we have for seven of the last eight years been the fastest-growing economy among the large European nations and we have something of the fizz of the US. We are, for example, second only to the States in terms of venture capital investment. Yet we haven't experienced the same mania. When Wall Street does eventually turn down, everyone will be hurt. But the issue then will be who jumps up first, who is most resilient? Fingers crossed.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MICHAEL HOROVITZ



An ex-beatnik answers Alex Webb's misrepresentation of Jack Kerouac and the Beats

ALLEN GINSBERG'S *Howl*, not *On the Road*, is the "central text of the Beats"; it was Ginsberg who created and sustained the Beat Generation, in the teeth of misgivings from most others conscripted to it - notably from Kerouac.

The original group including Corso, Snyder, Fieringhetti and the gay or bisexual Ginsberg, Kerouac, Cassady and LeRoi Jones depicted and to some extent exercised macho attitudes to women - but so, remember, did most of the Western world at mid-century. Joyce Johnson's memoir of her scene with Kerouac, *Minor Characters*, shows how this boy-gang's breakdown of barriers and taboos did help women's liberation to ensue, and acknowledges the younger Kerouac's basic decency, comradeship and painstaking encouragement of her own writing.

Early Kerouac (the one who wrote the books) also understood blacks and jazz very well: his sound poetry and spontaneous prose, such as *Old Angel Midnight* and *Mexico City Blues*, are about as close to verbal bebop as anything apart from the scatting improvisations of Dizzy Gillespie and Slim Gaillard.

For a subtle, perceptive, musically disciplined, good-humoured, selfless and pure, yet humane love of black jazz, Philip Larkin never bettered *On the Road's* vignette of Lester Young: "That gloomy, saintly goof in whom the history of jazz was wrapped; for when he held his horn high and horizontal from his mouth he blew the greatest; and as his hair grew longer and he got lazier and stretched out, his horn came down half-way; till it finally fell all the way and today as he wears his thick-soled shoes so that he can't feel the sidewalks of life his horn is held weakly against his chest, and he blows cool and easy getout phrases."

Asians itain?



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Jazz blowing hot and cool

FOR MOST of the first century of its existence, jazz was best known for what it wasn't: orthodox, white, respectable and middle-class. Forged in the muggy, disreputable furnace of Storyville, a black sub-section of New Orleans where prostitution and its attendant vices were legalised as a form of containment, jazz was what people did when they were doing what they weren't supposed to do. It wasn't simply so-called black music, inspired by funeral bands and whorehouse pianos. Rather, jazz was unofficial culture, a sort of carnival break from the humdrum and mundane.

In its early days, "jazz" denoted intensely unquantifiable things such as sex, dance, hot music and a

perpetual state of nervous stimulation. It was perfect urban music, a means of burning off all that commuter haste and metal. When Louis Armstrong took some of King Oliver's better Dixieland musicians to Chicago in the Twenties and recorded a series of spectacular singles (which provide the soundtrack for many a classic Woody

THURSDAY BOOKS

VISIONS OF JAZZ: THE FIRST CENTURY
BY GARY GIDDINS, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, £25
THE PLAYBOY BOOK OF JAZZ
BY NEIL TESSER, BLOOMSBURY, £14.99



Virtuoso Louis Armstrong Reuters

Allen comedy), he blew the last bars of freeform solo improvisations. Suddenly, the controlling melody wasn't the whole story, rather it provided a runway from which wild riffs and lugubrious vocals took off, as in Armstrong's influential burst of "scat" in the aptly-titled "Heebie Jeebies": "Eh, eef, gah, maff, dee-do, de-doo-de-doo, de-do-de-do, de-do-de-do, de-do-de-do..." No wonder many people considered jazz, and scat-singing in particular, a form of lewd exhibitionism. "Think What You Do," "Trummy Young used to sing, 'It's the Way That You Do It.'"

But, like most innovations in politics and art, jazz quickly generated its own antithesis. If Armstrong and his hard-bop descendants wanted to just blot it all out (Armstrong, incidentally, was also a fervent proponent of that other form of inner release, bowel purgatives), then the counter-trends of jazz dispensed their music with more restraint and composure. The laconic, taut, Bix Beiderbecke, for example, adored Armstrong but went on to sound like everything Armstrong wasn't: more flowing than percussive, more Ravel than Jelly Roll. Coleman Hawkins created his own rough flare about the same time as Lester "Pres" Young brought balance to the early recordings of Billie Holiday. Pretty soon, East Coast "hot" made way for West Coast "cool".

No form of music has ever been quicker at embracing competing styles than jazz, from the Latin samba of Stan Getz's middle years to the electric fusion of Miles Davis; as Dexter Gordon, the great West Coast tenor saxophonist, remarked: "Jazz is an octopus." It turns everything it's not into everything it is.

For the last three decades, Gary Giddins has been one of jazz's smartest and most prescient critics, and his large, authoritative and highly personal new book sets out to canonise his many obsessions over the years. Designed as a sort of "auteur" guide to jazz, including more than 70 essays on everyone from Al Jolson and Bunk Johnson to Dinah Washington and Joshua Redman, Giddins's book focuses on those artists he considers to be indispensable.

Probably the only consistent quality about *Visions of Jazz* is its intelligence and persuasion. Giddins prefers the jumpy pyrotechnics of Thelonious Monk and Art Tatum, for example, to the more accessible harmonies of Bill Evans or Dave Brubeck. While he occasionally lapses into the sort of circuitous blather that makes some people hate critics (at one point he describes Armstrong's no-nonsense persona as "the culmination of a hidden musical phylogeny that developed in the relative isolation of a cultural outland"), even his wildest assertions possess the weight and integrity of well-considered affection. Like Andrew Sarris's *The New Cinema*, this is the sort of book that is hard to put down even when it gets really annoying.

On the other hand, *The Playboy Guide to Jazz* is, like many such guides for middle-aged guys pretending to be hip, pretty naff (Bloombsbury, by the way, is a fine literary publisher that has a lot to answer for in terms of its consistently shoddy reference books). Subscribing to the 100 Great Books style of aesthetic reduction, Neil Tesser's approach seems designed to sell jazz to just the sort of people who won't really like it - in other words, those looking to assemble a library of noteworthy CDs that do justice to their new display shelves.

Still, Tesser is just uncool enough to pay tribute to those pop-moderns discounted by Giddins: Pat Metheny, say, or Keith Jarrett. His book may be a bit silly at times, but it isn't entirely useless. Those who already love jazz should read Giddins and skip Tesser. But those who don't love it (yet) might actually benefit from reading both.

SCOTT BRADFIELD

THURSDAY POEM

THE SNOOKER PLAYER
BY LEAH FRITZ

Under an angled canopy of lights
as bright as day and shadowless as noon,
until the last black ball pursued by white
is swallowed in the pocket of the zoom,

his cue's the bow of a Stradivarius
and he the Paganini of his time;
a telescope to plot the universe,
a lever to divert the earth's incline;

the table's baize a canvas of Da Vinci,
his elongated brush defining both
science and art in human anatomy.
And he will play as if he is alone,

his mind, his eye, his hand, the cue, the ball
in one obliterating stroke - sod all.

From Leah Fritz's new collection, *The Way to Go*,
published at £6.75 by Loxwood Stoneleigh, St Andrew's House,
125 North Road, Bristol BS6 5AH

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Professor Robert Zachary

ROBERT ZACHARY was a leading figure in that small group of surgeons whose existence became possible by the creation of the National Health Service. Within one generation they revolutionised surgery for the newborn and young child. Of these surgeons, Zachary will be remembered as one around whom circulated a dilemma that is still with us, concerning the right to life of infants with treatable, very severe, congenital deformities.

Before the National Health Service was established in the late Forties, surgeons were "honorary" in teaching hospitals and earned their livelihood in private work; in the provinces there was no money in child surgery. A system had developed where trainee surgeons became attached to children's hospitals and "learned to cut" there. When a vacancy occurred in an adult hospital, they applied for it and, if successful, were transferred, leaving the children's hospital free to take on a new trainee. Thus adult surgeons considered themselves to be competent with children and looked on all of the staff at the children's hospital as trainees and not full specialists.

This was the general situation at the Sheffield Children's Hospital when Zachary was appointed as its first full-time surgeon in 1947. The surgical mortality was high, there was little status, and laboratory support was scanty. Zachary threw himself into the work with enthusiasm. He was a small man with a severe scoliosis but with great intelligence, charm, drive and energy. He was a superb actor and well above average on the dance floor. He had a high level of charisma, overcame many problems and carried all before him.

Within 10 years he had established Sheffield as an important centre for children's surgery. In 1953 he was a prime mover in setting up the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, which has become the premier international society in this field. He went on to become President of the association in 1962-63, and was a founder member of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida (and Chairman, 1969-71).

His experience in neuro-spinal research, and his personal experience of congenital deformities involving the spine, focused his attention on spina bifida and on the possibility of preventing deformities, rather than adopting the traditional "wait-and-see" regime. With his clinical colleagues, the orthopaedic surgeon John Sharrard and the paediatrician John Lorber, Zachary formed an investigative team treating newborns with spina bifida as medical emergencies and operated as soon as possible after birth.

Some of the results were striking, creating world-wide interest, and within a few years Sheffield had become an international centre for the treatment of this condition. The hospital became flooded with patients. Parents who had infants with spina bifida moved jobs to Sheffield to obtain what was then a unique combined medical and surgical service. Many children with the disease who would have died in infancy survived.

Sheffield had to open special schools to look after these children and the cost of care escalated. Where would all this end? The question of "quality of life" arose.

Classical readers will recall that the *codices*, the staff of Aesculapius-Hermes, has two intertwined and controlled snakes. These were the fighting snakes of knowledge and wisdom or science and humanism. Zachary was an active Roman Catholic, Knight Commander of St Gregory with Star, and believed that his duty was to do all that he could for any child. He had more faith in moral than statistical truths; thus when the question arose concerning the selection of babies at birth whose outlook was so poor

"In my own small way I feel a common bond with all those who have spina bifida when I say, 'We who were born with a deformed spine...'"



that some thought that treatment should be withheld, he took a humanistic line.

His philosophy created a debate with colleagues in Sheffield – a debate that extended way beyond the paediatric surgical world. Winners and losers of such conflicts are not doctors but the infants, and the arguments are not over yet. The Zachary/Lorber conflict was a product of the rapid growth of science in medical and surgical care of infants in the years 1970-80. The debate relating to spina bifida subsequently resolved itself to a large extent with a great diminution of child births with that particular deformity.

Zachary attracted numerous assistants and colleagues during his long career; many of whom now occupy senior positions in hospitals in this country and abroad. His work was not confined to Sheffield;

he had close contacts all over the world and was a popular speaker. His acting skills were combined with linguistic ones and he always attempted to give a lecture in the home language of any country he visited – and he frequently visited countries in eastern Europe, Poland and Russia. The hospital in Sheffield where he did all of the paediatric surgery for over 10 years now needs four full-time surgeons. Such men as Bob Zachary, and his great friend and rival at Liverpool, Peter Rickman, were the giants of an era.

Zachary was born in Leeds in 1913 and received his schooling at the Jesuit-run St Michael's College. Though he trained as a pharmacist, he subsequently decided to study medicine and graduated from Leeds University in 1940 with first class honours and the Gold Medal, gaining prizes in both surgery and clinical medicine. From the outset he knew that he wished to be a surgeon and went directly to the department of anatomy to get his "Primary" exams. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1943.

Working at Leeds Royal Infirmary with the professor of surgery, he met his future wife, Faith, a theatre sister. He then went to the Surgical Research Unit at Oxford University under Professor Herbert Seddon, initially working with the Spanish surgeon Joseph Trueta, who during the Spanish Civil War had revolutionised the treatment of wounds.

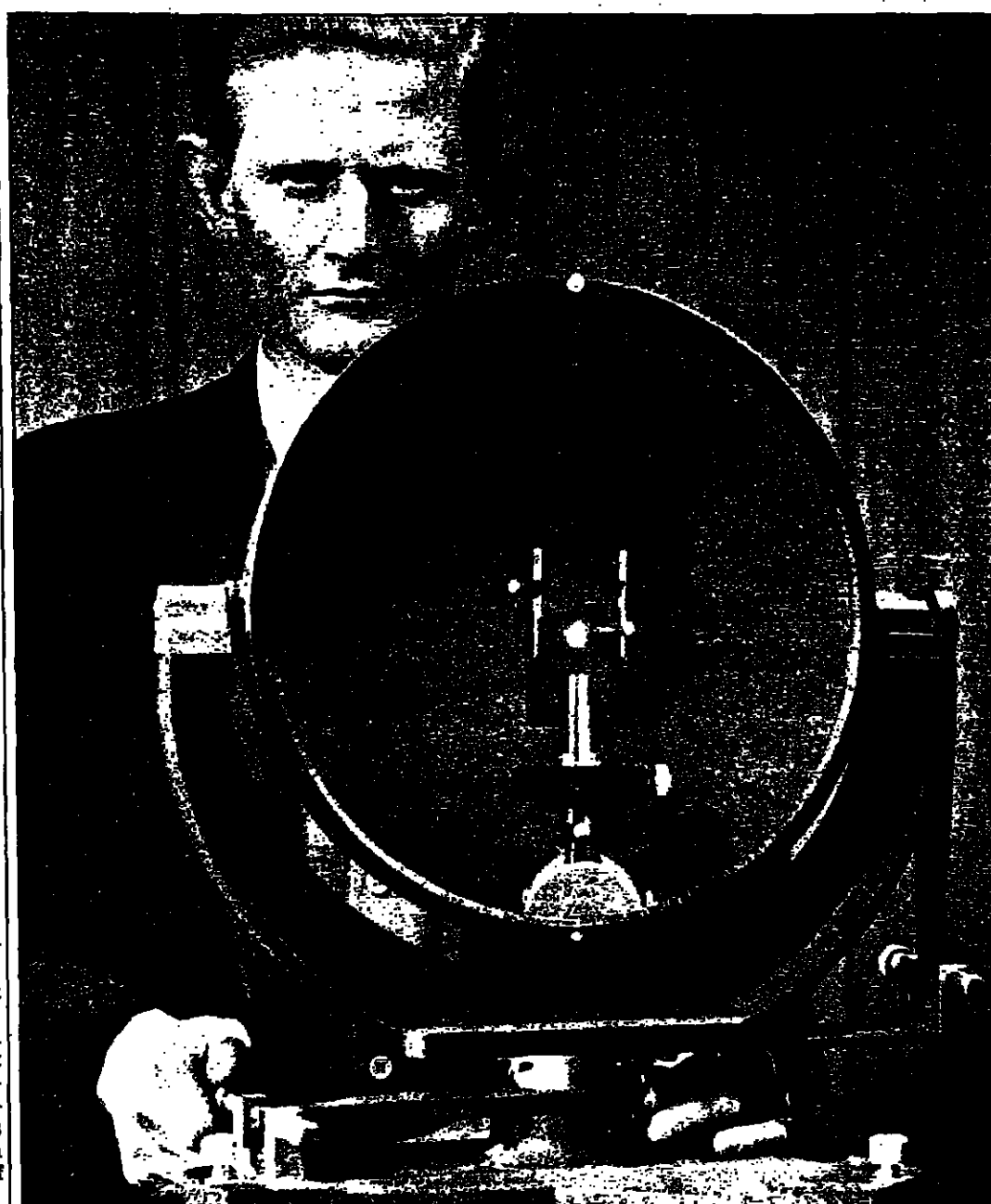
Zachary's spinal deformity excluded him from the armed forces and he spent the war years carrying out research in the Peripheral Nerve Injury Unit at Oxford, where he made several original contributions. In 1944 he was elected Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons for research on orthopaedics. By this time, Zachary had decided that he wanted to be a children's surgeon, so in 1945 he went to the United States to work under Dr Frank Ingham at the Boston Children's Hospital, in Massachusetts, which was at that time the leading children's unit in the world. It was during the final few months of this Nuffield fellowship that Zachary was appointed in 1947 to the Sheffield Children's Hospital.

When Bob Zachary retired in 1978, he left Sheffield and started a new life in Australia and later Canada. His second wife, Winifred, died in 1990, but he is survived by his third wife, Janet, and by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage, all of whom are doctors.

At one time he wrote an autobiography that was never published, and its final sentence to a great extent sums up his life: "In my own small way I feel a common bond with all those who have spina bifida when I say: 'We who were born with a deformed spine...'"

JOHN L. EMERY

Robert Bransby Zachary, paediatric surgeon, born Leeds 1 March 1913; Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Sheffield Children's Hospital 1947-78; Professor Associate in Paediatric Surgery, Sheffield University 1976-78 (Emeritus); three times married (two sons, one daughter); died St Albans, Hertfordshire 1 February 1999.



De Normanville demonstrating the Schlieren effect. The concave mirror is placed at its exact focal distance from the light source (seen reflected) so that it produces a parallel light beam

Peter de Normanville

PETER DE NORMANVILLE began his career as a documentary filmmaker after the Second World War with the Shell Film Unit.

The unit had been formed by Edgar Anstey in the 1930s; with John Grierson's GPO Film Unit, it became a distinguished part of the British documentary movement. Although Shell used the film unit as a promotional tool, the accepted philosophy taught to all its young directors was not to make a film about its products, but about the scientific principles behind those products. The films were thus at once entertaining and impartially educational, and attracted wide audiences. The sponsor maintained its presence by its logo on the end of each film.

This approach was exemplified by De Normanville's first major film, *High Speed Flight* (1956; the first of a three-part series). In the early 1950s supersonic flight was only possible for a few seconds in a pre-arranged dive. The RAF asked Shell to produce a film to explain the hazards and problems of this flying to its pilots. Using the optical process known as the Schlieren technique, De Normanville showed in vivid colours the way shock waves built up on an aircraft's wings and tail surfaces as it flew through the sound barrier. Hundreds of copies of the film were sold to the world's air forces, and it won numerous prizes.

Peter de Normanville was born in London in 1922 and educated at Ampleforth (Cardinal Basil Hume was a contemporary). Instead of going to Oxford in 1940, he joined the RAF and became the youngest four-engined-bomber pilot of his time. He survived two devastating crashes, the second one after a daylight raid on Brest that went badly wrong. At the end of a

year in hospital, he was told he would never work again, but promptly went to sea as a navigator on motor gunboats for the rest of the war.

De Normanville saw a lot of training films while he was in the RAF, and became attracted to the idea of making films himself. In 1946 he was accepted by the Shell Film Unit, and appointed assistant to Sarah Erulkar, a young Indian film-maker. Later they married.

He followed *High Speed Flight*, in the late 1950s, with *Forming of Metals*, an expositional film that transformed a steel mill into a symphony of light and movement, and *Frontiers of Friction*, which spiced an otherwise dull physical phenomenon with shots of a bartender sliding glasses of whisky down the counter to his customers in a western saloon.

After 15 years at Shell, de Normanville left to go freelance, and turned his scientific mind and interpretive skills to other industries. Morgan Crucible made crucibles out of jet black carbon to hold molten metals. A less promising film image would be hard to imagine. So de Normanville made a film about carbon itself (Corton, 1966): the atom of C, the atom of the diamond, the atom of graphite.

For IBM he made *Man and Computer: a perspective* (1967) – a film on computing that didn't show a single computer. He told his client that computers were "boring boxes", and with the help of animation and visual analogy explained what went on inside them. The technique paid off. The film's life lasted several years since there was no product in it to date it.

His wife meantime had been pursuing a successful career of her own, and they shared the direction of a

number of films, notably *Living City* (1975), a portrait of Calcutta, and a series of films on leprosy.

De Normanville's work ranged over many countries and many subjects; he made films on oil pipelines in Alaska and India; on world economic problems for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; on developments in microbiology interpreted by six Nobel prizewinners; on the railway works at Swindon; on the nature of light for Lucas Industries. He explained the Critical Path management technique developed for the American Polaris submarine programme by showing how it could be applied to the building of a filling station.

He was the first to admit that none of his ideas would ever have reached the screen without the ingenuity, patience and applied imagination of some of the finest cameramen in the business, among them Sidney Beadle, Ronnie Whitehouse, Wolfgang Suschitzky and Arthur Wooster.

His final film was for Rolls-Royce to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first flight of Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine. By that time, however, the short-term, impatient age of the video cassette had arrived, and the good times of documentary film were over. He and his wife both retired from films, and turned their talents to buying and selling antiques. But to the end Peter de Normanville retained his enthusiasm for the world of science, and his pishish sense of humour.

RODNEY GIESLER

Peter Bernard Augustin de Normanville, documentary film-maker, born London 29 June 1922; married 1950 Sarah Erulkar (two daughters); died London 7 March 1999.

Lulu Belle Wiseman

LULU BELLE Wiseman was one half of "The Sweethearts of Country Music". She and her husband Scotty were, during their heyday, perhaps the most popular husband-and-wife team within the genre, and were long-time stars of the influential Chicago-based WLS radio show *National Barn Dance*.

She was born Myrtle Eleanor Cooper in North Carolina in 1913 and was already performing professionally whilst still in her teens. In 1932 she auditioned for the *National Barn Dance*, gaining a solo spot and a new stage name of Lulu Belle.

National Barn Dance was by the Thirties the most widely listened to hillbilly programme in the United States, with weekly audiences approaching 20 million. It was to prove a springboard to success for several notable figures, among them the bass-player Red Foley. He and Lulu Belle began to perform as a duo, known as Lulu Belle and Burhead.

In 1934, Scotty Wiseman joined the *Barn Dance* cast. A proficient banjo and guitar picker, singer and songwriter, "Skyland Scotty" – so named because he was raised in Asheville, North Carolina, "Land of the Skies" – had begun to perform whilst studying to become a teacher. He and Lulu Belle hit it off immediately and, much to the delight of the station's managers, married in December that year (though some irate fans wrote in complaining that Scotty had stolen Red's girl).

The Wisemans' smooth style and sunny presence rapidly made them one of the show's biggest draws; a popularity they capitalised on with a series of low-budget movies including *Hi, Neighbor* (1940), *Country Fair* (1941) and, with Roy Rogers, *Shine On Harvest Moon* (1938).

They cut a series of classic records over the years for Vocalion, Okeh, Bluebird, Trutone, Mercury and Starday, many of them written and arranged by Scotty. In addition to hits such as "Remember Me", "Brown Mountain Light", "Whippoorwill Time" and "Does Your Spasmant Lose Its Flavor on the Bed Post Overnight", later successfully covered and adapted by Lonnie Donegan, two Scotty Wiseman tunes have become standards: "Mountain Dew", a reworking of a Bascombe Lerner Lumford tune, and "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You", which has been covered numerous times, notably by Bing Crosby and Jim Reeves.

For eight years from 1949, Lulu Belle and Scotty hosted their own daily television programme on the Chicago station WNEQ. In 1958 they surprised their fans by virtually quitting music and moving back to North Carolina. Although three albums were cut for Starday, *The Sweethearts of Country Music* (1963), *Down Memory Lane* (1964) and *Sweethearts Still* (1965), their performing days were all but over. He began to teach whilst she became involved in local politics, eventually serving in the state legislature. Scotty Wiseman died following a heart attack in 1981; Lulu Belle remarried in 1986 cut an album, *Snickers and Tender Memories*.

PAUL WADEY

Myrtle Eleanor (Lulu Belle) Cooper, singer, born Boone, North Carolina 24 December 1913; married 1934 Scotty Wiseman (died 1981); 1963 Ernest Stamey; died 8 February 1999.

Lowell Fulson

IN JONATHAN Keates's article about Handel on the *Independent* arts pages (16 March), he remarks, in reference to misperceptions of the relative merits of Bach and Handel, "one German baroque composer in a big white wig looks very like another", writes Nick Kimberley. Something similar seems to have applied when it comes to putting a picture with the otherwise generous obituary about Lowell Fulson (16 March), by Paul Trynka: the moody, bespectacled hunk with furry collar and cuffs is, in fact, David Ruffin of the Temptations, not Fulson.

Nevertheless it's good to see serious spaces devoted to an underrated bluesman. One detail in the obituary does not ring true: it was not Fulson's success with "Reconsider Baby" that made his band member Ray Charles turn solo. Fulson had a hit with "Reconsider Baby" in 1954, by which time Charles was long gone from his band and already making a big name for himself at Atlantic. And it's a slight shame that Trynka doesn't mention Fulson's 1968 recording of the Beatles' "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?", a track that turned on its head the meaningless question "Can white men sing the blues?" In this case, Fulson sang white rock better than most white practitioners.

We apologise for the error with the illustration, which was due to a misidentification by the picture agency.

Tom Carr

A FEW years before he died, a picture by Tom Carr appeared for sale in an English provincial auction room. It had been done about 60 years before: two nude bathers in a sylvan setting, Stella, the future wife of the artist, and Wendy, who eventually married Carr's friend the artist Victor Pasmore. Carr bought it, but it was not marketable. So he simply added a dog and the picture readily sold in Belfast, where he was by then one of Northern Ireland's most sought-after painters.

It was a typical exercise by this practical and dedicated artist. Asked if he found painting hard work, Carr replied: "Well, yes, but not as hard as cutting the grass." By that time his routine had been established, in the studio from around eight o'clock in the morning until he went to bed, drawing, painting, glancing at his sketchbooks, planning the next day's work. His work was also his hobby.

Carr had been associated with some of the most interesting developments in British painting between the wars. In 1906 he was born into an affluent Belfast family. His parents united the Carr and Workman families, involved in stock-

broking, banking, linen manufacture and shipping. His father, also Tom, and his mother, Mary Workman, of the Workman and Clark shipyard, encouraged young Tom to draw and paint. He also won backing from Mary's father, a banker and keen amateur artist, who gave him a box of paints when he was recovering from pneumonia and took him sketching. Carr's school was Oundle, which he disliked, although he improved his art and learned to shoe horses, a useful accomplishment for a man who was at heart a countryman. He was fortunate in having as art masters E.M. O'Rourke Dickey, a fellow Ulsterman and now an unjustly forgotten artist, and a fine portraitist, Christopher Perkins.

Carr left Oundle in 1926 and with Perkins's family spent three weeks at Cassis, in the South of France. Perkins, Carr and another artist exhibited their sketches in the hotel. Only one was sold – by Carr – in a discriminating member of the Bensussan-Butt family, related to the French Fissarro dynasty by marriage.

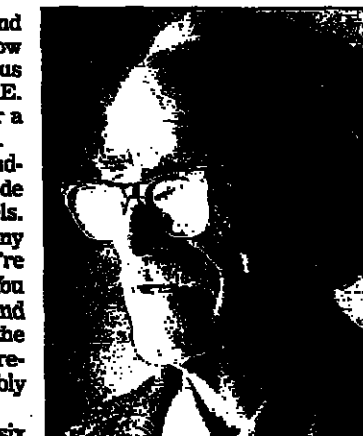
Encouraged by the 210 sale, Carr applied to the Slade School of Fine Art in London. From 1927 to 1929 his

teachers included Henry Tonks and Philip Wilson Steer. Among fellow students were two to-be-famous Ulster artists, the sculptor E.E. McWilliam and John Luke, later a teacher at Belfast College of Art.

Carr had concentrated on landscape, with Cézanne and Claude Lorraine as particular models. Tonks told Carr, "If you look at any good landscape painters they're also competent draughtsmen. You must learn to draw the figure," and this he did. Carr's son-in-law, the painter Martin MacKeown, remembers him as "an incredibly perfect draughtsman".

Next, Carr's family funded six months in Italy for him, where he stayed with Aubrey Waterfield in his medieval castle at Settignano, outside Florence. Carr visited I Tatti, home of the Renaissance expert Bernard Berenson. He later claimed that when Berenson was away the young people used an old panel by Duccio as a dashboard.

Back in London, Carr rejoined old Slade friends, showing with such artists as Graham Bell, William Coldstream, Lawrence Gowing, Rodrigo Moynihan, Claude Rogers and



Carr: 'Not as hard as cutting the grass' Pacemaker

Geoffrey Tibble. This was a time of experiment. When the Objective Abstractionists held their show at Zwemmer's Gallery in London in 1934, Carr – essentially a realist – was rather oddly slotted in. When he returned to live in Northern Ireland, Carr found a new use for more way-out pictures from that period. This artist, who reckoned a lot of abstract art "rubbish", said that the

had been very useful "for re-roofing my beehives".

Carr found association with the Euston Road School of painting, started by Coldstream, Pasmore and Roberts in 1937, more sympathetic. Like his friend Anthony Devas, another excellent portraitist, he was an associate of this group of quiet objective realists.

Settling in Newcastle, Co Down, in 1939, Carr slowly built a reputation. He taught at a girls' school and at Belfast College of Art, but mainly concentrated on becoming a prolific, widely shown painter. Typical subjects were people on benches, by the seaside, children playing, dogs and cats commonly in evidence, all this incidental to the farms, coastline and the Mourne Mountains. From 1955 he lived in Belfast.

Carr's work was familiar at the Royal Academy, and at bodies of which he was a member: the Royal Ulster Academy, the New English Art Club, the Royal Watercolour Society and, as an honorary member, the Royal Hibernian Academy. In 1991 he gained an honorary doctorate from Queen's University, was

appointed MBE in 1974, and OBE in 1983 for services to art in Ulster.

When his wife died in 1995, Carr joined his daughter Ann and her husband in Ilteringham, Norfolk. Carr was well into his eighties, but this was not retirement. He responded anew to the East Anglian countryside, giving his pictures a fresh lease. To keep himself fit to paint, he began walking a mile before lunch, another before supper; otherwise he "would drop dead". Ultimately, he decided that if he kept up the walking it would sap his energy to paint.

Given Tom Carr's impressive background, his younger brother Sam, the chairman of the publishing firm B.T. Batsford and a keen picture collector, would occasionally seek his advice. It was not infallible. Which should Sam sell, he asked Tom, a Sickert or a Bonnard? Tom ruefully recalled the day when he had advised: "Oh, I should sell the Bonnard!"

DAVID BUCKMAN

Thomas James Carr, painter, born Belfast 21 September 1909; married 1935 Stella Robbins (died 1995; three daughters); died Norwich 17 February 1999.

Lulu Belle Wiseman

Antônio Houaiss

WHEN IN 1964 a minor diplomatic officer, Antônio Houaiss, was arbitrarily dismissed, the Brazilian military dictatorship that had taken power that year made probably their single most important contribution to the culture of their country. The victim of this bout of ideological cleansing became also the foremost Brazilian philologist of the second half of the century.

A progressive publisher, Érico Silveira (a sort of Brazilian Victor Gollancz), decided that the newly unemployed linguist needed some economic help and grandly commissioned him to do the translation of a book difficult enough to challenge his philological reputation. Houaiss worked full-time for a year, and in 1966 Silveira published one of the best translations ever of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

From then on Houaiss would become a specialist in massive scholarly tours de force. He was the chief editor of the three main encyclopaedias in Portuguese, as well as dictionaries and reference books. At the time of his death he was working on another gargantuan project, a "General Dictionary of the Portuguese Language" that would include every word used by Portuguese-speaking peoples in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

An old idea first sketched in 1966, the new dictionary became a reality as a result of the recent campaign for the multinational orthographic unification of the Portuguese language. The dictionary, which is 95 per cent finished, will have about 300,000 entries, almost twice as many as its best predecessor, and is due to be published next year as part of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Brazil's discovery by the Portuguese. Since his death it has been renamed the "Houaiss dictionary".

His left-wing ideas soon became a hindrance to his diplomatic career. Labelled as a "Communist", although he never joined the Party, he was passed over for promotion to the United States and sent instead to a diplomatic backwater, the Dominican Republic. There, from 1949 to 1961, he had his second first-hand experience of a dictatorship, under the government of the Generalissimo Leóidas Trujillo. His first had been in Brazil, under Getúlio Vargas's fascist "Estado Novo" in the Thirties.

In 1961 he returned to the mainstream with a two-year posting in Athens, and finally in New York, where he worked at the Brazilian mission to the United Nations from 1960 to 1964. Immediately after the April 1964 military coup, Houaiss was forced into early retirement and expelled from the diplomatic service, as well as being deprived of his political rights for 10 years. Already in the Fifties, while serving in Athens, he had been put into "inactive avail-

ability" - paid but not employed and unable to apply for any other post - together with other left-wing diplomats.

It wasn't until 1980 that he then President Collor reinstated Houaiss in the diplomatic corps as an ambassador for the purpose of retirement benefits. Though an open Socialist militant, Antônio Houaiss was never involved in politics proper. Under the presidency of Juscelino Kubitschek (1956-61) he was a presidential adviser; and later, under Ilmar Franco (1964-66) he was Culture Minister. Ironically, it was as a political "non-person" during the authoritarian period from 1964 to 1989 that Houaiss, with other intellectuals, became a symbol of civic resistance.

After a brief spell as an editorial writer in the national daily *Correio da Manhã* (1964-66), he returned to scholarly activity as editor-in-chief of the *Detla-Larousse Encyclopaedia* (12 volumes, published in the mid-1960s), and the *Mirador Encyclopaedia* (20 vol-



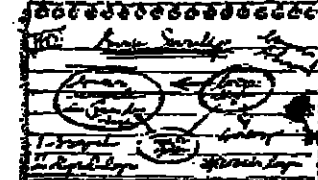
Houaiss: massive scholarly tours de force. Agência Estado Brazil.

umes, 1975). As a philologist he also wrote two bilingual Portuguese-English dictionaries, including the two-volume Webster dictionary in 1982.

He was a scholarly editor, starting with the critical edition of the works of the turn-of-the-century novelist Lima Barreto (1956), as well as of other classic Brazilian writers. Houaiss was also an influential critic, from early volumes such as *Crítica Avulsa* ("Selected Essays", 1960) to *Drummond, mais seis poemas e um problema* ("Drummond, Six More Poets and a Problem", 1976), where he totally renewed the critical vision of the work of Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Brazil's leading poet.

Antônio Houaiss, philologist, diplomatist and writer: born Rio de Janeiro 15 October 1915; married 1942 Ruth Marques de Sales (died 1988); died Rio de Janeiro 7 March 1999.

HUGO ESTENSSORO



ETHNIC NOTES KERRI SAKAMOTO

A fetishist of his cultural heritage

AS YOU sit on the Shinkansen, the bullet train that speeds you out of Tokyo, the heads of passengers form a striking, abstract black grid. For a third-generation Japanese Canadian growing up in the suburbs of Toronto in the 1970s, the sight of another black-haired Asian was rare. The experience of racial sameness for the first time - coupled with simultaneous cultural and linguistic difference - is a potent mix of intimacy and alienation.

Shinjuku is Tokyo's largest railway station, where a dense procession of people stream in and out; it's relentless. Supposedly, the number of people passing through in one day exceeds the population of Canada. Millions of people scurry amidst the giant screens. It's floor-to-sky, wall-to-wall visual and aural stimulation. Fifteen years ago, my parents made their first trip to my grandparents' homeland. If I had been there, the semiotics of my Western garb, my body language, not to mention my 5ft 10in height, would have given me away on the street as "funny", not "natural". But today style is global; the younger generation of Japanese has tossed the kimono and the geta (thonged platform sandals) away and eliminated the pigeon-toed walk. They've grown taller with the infiltration of Western foods. I can pass among the masses unobserved, but only as long as I keep my mouth shut.

Certain things strike a faint chord. The sound of utterances rather than their meaning: the sight of *so so* at the end of conversation; what I'd taken to be my parent's idiosyncrasies I now recognise as belonging to an inherited cultural vocabulary of manners: a predilection for scalding baths and the precision in tying up packages. I am reminded of this when negotiating the neck-high, burning waters of a gas-heated tub, or *ofuro*, found in virtually every Japanese household; and when purchasing *magu* (rice cakes) or *sembe* (rice crackers), carefully boxed and wrapped. This is the aesthetic of the *omiyage*, the gift-giving, which has persisted even in the tying-up of a bag of garbage.

Inside most Japanese homes, which don't have central heating, the cold chills to the bone. Families spend time in the kitchen where the floor is heated, and in an adjoining *tatami* room. There they buddle under a quilt that covers the *kotatsu*, an electric heater. In bedrooms, the toilet seats are heated, and the press of a button discharges a stream of hot water to sterno or prowl; another releases a flow of warm air to dry and coil. Bodies are not heated through the environment as in North America; here bodies are drawn to the heated object.

If you are second-generation Japanese Canadians, the Japanese you speak will be cur-

iously outmoded in Japan. It's rooted in the Meiji era of the previous generation's youth, before the turn of the century. The third-generation Japanese Canadian speaks barely any Japanese. The terms *nisei* and *sansai* - first-, second- and third-generation Japanese Canadian - are foreign to most Japanese and our histories are of little interest to them. In the post-war years, according to one *nisei* who returned to Japan, pressured to "repatriate" by the Canadian government after release from an internment camp, *nikkei* (foreign-born Japanese) were labelled *kimin* - throwaways.

At the time of evacuation, Japanese Canadians could only take what they could carry from their homes. The rest was auctioned off by the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property. Some burned their possessions, fearful they would indicate an allegiance to Japan. Today, except among academics and the well-travelled, foreign-born Japanese have progressed to the status of marginal oddities. The idea of *nikkei* experiencing marginality, difference, even racism, is too remote to evoke empathy. But this history has made me into a collector, a fetishist of my own cultural heritage.

Kerri Sakamoto is the author of *The Electrical Field* (Macmillan, £12.99).

Constance Savery

CONSTANCE SAVERY was a prolific author of children's books over a period of 60 years. The mixture of erudition, quiet humour and the occasional evangelical message she brought to her work seems dated now, but for many years she was popular in America as well as Britain.

Still writing shortly before her death at the age of 101, she was the last of a distinguished line of maiden lady authors, the most outstanding of whom were Rosemary Sutcliffe and Cynthia Harnett, who wrote history and general stories for children which combined accuracy of detail with a lively sense of adventure.

The eldest of five daughters born to a clergyman father, Constance Winifred Savery wrote under the name of Constance, but was known as Winifred to the family. She was in the first cohort of women to be awarded their Oxford degrees (she read English) directly by the university in 1920. She later attended the 75th anniversary of this event as the last remaining member of a group which included both new graduates and older

women previously denied the chance of taking their degree at Oxford itself. After a couple of years not very happily schoolteaching, Savery returned to help run her father's parish in Middle-ton, Suffolk, on the death of her mother. This also allowed her time for a writing career that was to last for the rest of her life.

In 1929, she published her first and only adult novel, *Forbidden Doors*. There then followed a string of children's stories, some concentrating on history (*Green Emeralds for the King*, 1938), some more concerned with setting a pious example (*In Danny and the Alostober Box*, 1937, the story ends with the eponymous hero deciding from then on to donate one-tenth of his pocket money to his local church). Her publishers included the Children's Special Service Mission, the Church Book Room Press and the Children's Literature Crusade in addition to familiar names like Harrap, Longmans and Thomas Nelson. Her principal publishers eventually became Lutterworth,

with whom she had a long and productive relationship.

The Second World War brought about a change of emphasis in Savery's fiction. *Enemy Brothers* (1943) describes the problems faced by a young English boy returning to Britain after being raised as a Nazi following his kidnapping when a baby. This book was particularly successful in America. Welcome, *Santa* (1956) continued the wartime theme with its heroine a Greek refugee orphan who longed to be an ordinary little girl dressed in red.

Savery got the idea after reading how one young war refugee was reported saying "Nobody likes me, I only like myself. I am a nobody's nothing." A reviewer for *The New York Times* found the book "a sympathetic human story that has appeal for boys and girls who are sensitive to problems which sometimes face others of their own age".

Constance Savery's last book, in 1980, was a completion of Charlotte Brontë's unfinished novel, another *Emma*. Last year she signed a contract

for the republication in America of her book *The Rebel and the Redcoats*, which was first published in 1961. She continued to write articles, including some pieces on her favourite children's writer, Charlotte M. Yonge. There were many other interests: a working knowledge of Latin and Greek, plus expertise in church architecture and history, archaeology, astronomy, geology, conchology and botany. Like her other sisters, she never married. Deprived of potential husbands by the carnage of the First World War, all five girls went on to lead fulfilled lives, with four of them becoming writers. One sister, Christine, eventually joined her at the Quaker-run home where she died peacefully, still strong in the Church of England faith that had meant so much to her during a long life.

NICHOLAS TUCKER

Constance Winifred Savery, children's writer: born Frozfield, Wiltshire 31 October 1897; died Stroud, Gloucestershire 2 March 1999.

County court could make interim order

THE COUNTY court had jurisdiction to make *ex parte* or interim orders for displacement of a patient's nearest relative under section 29(3) (c) of the Mental Health Act 1983, but it was generally preferable that questions under section 29(3) (c) should be finally determined before an application was made for the patient's compulsory admission to hospital under section 3.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the applicant's appeal against the dismissal of his application for judicial review of two orders of the county court displacing his mother as his nearest relative for the purposes of the Mental Health Act 1983, and a decision to admit him compulsorily to hospital for treatment.

The applicant had a long history of schizophrenia with admissions to hospital since 1966. His mother was the statutory nearest relative under section 26 of the Mental Health Act 1983. On 5 March 1998 an approved social worker applied under section 4 of the 1983 Act for emergency admission of the applicant to hospital. On 6 March the applicant was regarded to a section 2 patient, i.e. one who had been admitted for assessment.

On 8 March a county court judge, purporting to act under section 26(3) (c) of the Act, made an order on an *ex parte* application purporting to displace the applicant's mother as his nearest relative until further order, on the ground that she had unreasonably objected to the making of an application for admission for treatment. He ordered that the matter be relisted for 15 March so that

consideration might be given to the continuance of the order. On 15 March the application to displace the applicant's mother was considered *inter partes* by another county court judge, who made an order continuing the previous order until 3 April. On 22 March the social services department, purporting to act as the applicant's nearest relative, applied for his compulsory admission to hospital for treatment under section 3 of the Act. The hospital admitted him, relying on the county court orders.

The applicant applied for judicial review of the county court orders of 8 and 15 March 1998 on the ground that the county court had no jurisdiction to make *ex parte* or interim orders, and of the decision of the hospital managers of 22 March purporting to admit him for treatment under section 3 of the Act, on the ground that, if the county court orders were void, the admission was unlawful. His ap-

plication was dismissed, and he appealed to the Court of Appeal. *Nigel Fleming QC and Rabinder Singh (Gill & Co) for the applicant; Christopher Kaitouk (Treasury Solicitor) for the county court; Prestley Barendse QC and Gerard Clarke (Radcliffe) for the hospital managers.*

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that the general power in section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984 to make any order which could be made by the High Court if the proceedings were in the High Court was not expressly excluded by the Mental Health Act 1983.

Parliament had to be taken to have enacted the 1983 Act in the light of the existing powers of the court, and simply because the machinery existed in section 29(4) of the 1983 Act for the extension of the period for which a patient was liable to be detained by virtue of an application for admission for assessment until an application under section 29(3) (c) or (d) for the displacement of the patient's nearest relative had been finally disposed of, it did not necessarily mean that more general powers were excluded.

Accordingly, the county court had had jurisdiction to make the orders of 8 and 15 March, and it followed that the hospital's admission of the applicant under section 3 was not unlawful. It was, however, preferable that, unless there were cogent reasons to the contrary, questions under section 29(3) (c) should be finally determined before an application for compulsory admission under section 3 were made.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS

WALSHE GREY: On Saturday 6 March 1999, to Alex Grey and Richard Walshe, a son, Thomas Alexander Croker Walshe Grey.

DEATHS

O'KELLY: Miriam, Monday 15 March 1999, died peacefully at Thurbury Hospital (Gloucester Road), Bristol. Sadly missed by Brian, Beverley and family. Funeral on Monday 22 March, 10.30am at the Salvation Army, Staple Hill, Bristol. Financial tributes and further details from R. J. Gidwell, 1 Quaker Lane, Thurbury, South Gloucestershire telephone 01454 418779.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

VIGURS: Wendy (née Boswell), aged 84, died 15 March after a short illness. There will be a service of thanksgiving at 10.30am on Tuesday 23 March at St Luke's Church, Ransden Road, Battersea, London SW12. Floral tributes should be sent to J.E. Gilman and Sons, 971 Gerrard Lane, Tooting, SW17 0LW.

REVEREND MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Lt-Gen Sir Peter Beale, Chief Medical Adviser; British Red Cross, 65; Professor Alexander Bok-senberg, research professor, Cambridge University, 63; Major Sir David Butler, former Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, 79; Mr James Conlon, conductor, 48; Mr Pat Eddery, jockey, 47; Mr John Fraser, actor, 68; Sir William Fraser, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow University, 70; Mr Peter Graves, actor, 73; Sir Peter Harrop, former senior civil servant, 73; Mr Alex Higgins, snooker player, 50; Mr Patrick Kavanagh, former Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 78; Mr Kenny Lynch, singer and actor, 60; Mr Paul Marsden MP, 31; Mr Wilson Pickett,

singer, 58; Mr Fidel V. Ramos, former president of the Philippines, 71; Professor Sir Gordon Robson, anaesthetist, 78; Mr Barry Shaw, Chief Constable, Cleveland, 58; Mr Nicholas Snowman, chief executive, South Bank Centre, 55; Professor Eric Sunderland, former Vice-Chancellor, University College of North Wales, 69; Mr John Updike, novelist, 67; Dr Michael von Clemm, president, Templeton College, Oxford, 64.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov, composer, 1844; Wilfred Owen, poet, 1893. Deaths: Ivan IV (the Terrible), Tsar of Russia, 1584; Sir Henry Simpson Lunn, travel agent, 1939. On this day: the planet Pluto

was discovered by the astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, 1930. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Jerusalem, St Anselm of Lyons, St Cyril of Jerusalem, St Edward the Martyr, St Frigidian or Frediano and St Salvador de Horta.

LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Michael Ricketts, "The Work of Chris Burden", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Ann Kidcock, "The Sitwells and the Stage", 1.10pm.

MIDDLE TEMPLE

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple: Mr A.R.E. Newman QC, Mr C.M. Treacy QC, Mr G.F. Lawrence QC, The Hon R.C.H. Sisson QC.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
slut, n.

Little Slut of Six" (1924): "When I'm safely married, I'll learn lots of lovely tricks / To save myself from having / Any little sluts of

six." The Lord Chamberlain objected, and Coward sort of obliged with: "I shall count my little chicks / And maybe, if I'm lucky / I'll have lots of sluts of six." The OED doubts Johnson's assertion of Dutch origins, but remarks upon Northern use, and reminds us of those excellent words, hussy and jade.

Should baby suck a dummy?

Sheila's baby cries all the time, and is only comforted by a dummy. But her mother-in-law says it'll deform the baby's teeth, her husband says it looks awful, and Sheila herself has heard that dummies are a health hazard. What should she do?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

Fashions in bringing up babies change like hemlines. In 1910 Sir Truby King recommended that to stop thumb-sucking, the best plan was to put the babies' arms in splints of corrugated cardboard. In 1970 a Mrs Frankenburg wrote that the "continuous sucker of a dummy is fortunate if he does not become a chain-smoker, a drunkard or a drug-addict." (Personally I would have thought it was the other way round, that those who don't have things to suck on need sucky things in later life.) In 1975 Dr Hugh Jolly said he would prefer a baby who requires extra sucking to do it the natural way — "by sucking his thumb".

These days most baby books are perfectly easy about dummies, and thumb-sucking. But the bang-up-to-date research on dummies is confusing. It shows that the sucking promotes more saliva, which prevents plaque building up, and that there's no problem with teeth as long as children stop sucking dummies before six years old. Other research shows that dummy-suckers tended to have more infections than other babies, but

needless to say no one has sorted out whether this is because dummies tend to be used in families where mothers are young, broke and poorly educated, and smoke. So there you have it. Sheila's mind is probably boggling.

But there's a bigger issue here, about taking advice when you're bringing up children. It seems to me that Sheila knows perfectly what's right for her baby. The dummy soothes it and comforts it. But her intuitive motherly feelings have been undermined by two people who clearly don't have the baby's emotional interests at heart.

First, her mother-in-law, who can hardly know the baby as well as Sheila and who seems more concerned with the baby's looks than with its emotional welfare. Even if the teeth theory were true, which it isn't, better a buck-toothed baby full of beans than a perfect misery with a perfect mouth. Second, Sheila's husband, who seems to have inherited his mother's obsession with looks, says that dummies look awful. Most face-furniture does. But he surely wouldn't suggest his child stop wearing glasses, if it had to later, just on the grounds of vanity? I suspect class comes into all this. My mother never

gave me a dummy because she said they were "common". But babies, thank God, have no class distinctions. If they can't find their thumbs, they often want a dummy when they're miserable. Children aren't furniture kits from Ikea. There are no instructions a mother can follow, except her own gut feelings. When Sheila asks for advice, she knows the answer. She wants reassurance that her own instinctive feelings are right. So my advice is to trust her own judgement.

"Expert advice will not aid a parent unless he has the appropriate inner experiences," wrote the child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim. "Such advice may even prevent him from engaging in the laborious task of discovering the causes of his child's difficulties, and in the process discovering things about his own life and being which bring him that much closer to his child and the child to him. The right inner experience... will reveal how superficial and impersonal even the best advice is when applied to a complex situation caused by highly personal feelings."

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



A dummy is the answer. Before I had my first baby, I too despised the "common" dummy. However, within two weeks of putting my bundle of joy on the breast every two hours, I had succumbed.

Yes, they do look awful, but so do new mums with bags under the eyes and nursing bras left undone "to save time".

Two babies later I was still converted. Teeth are straight, unlike mine and my brother's, (our mother looked down on dummies, so we sucked thumb and forefinger respectively). You can throw away a dummy when a baby is 18 months old; unfortunately you cannot throw away thumbs, and they can stay planted into the teens.

FIONA CARRIVICK
Isleworth, Middlesex

They're better than thumbs I sucked my thumb until I was about 13 or 14, and found it extraordinarily hard to break the habit — my thumb, after all, was on the end of my hand, and always accessible, so I often sucked it without being even conscious of my actions. I am now, at 42, still undergoing dental treatment (private and expensive) to put right dental defects.

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

My youngest daughter had a dummy. It pacified her and turned her from a screaming, irritable baby into a contented, calm little girl. When she was about two-and-a-half, we told her that her dummy had "gone on holiday", sent her a couple of postcards to that effect, and that was the end of that! How many 12-year-olds do you see still sucking a dummy?
ALEX CARLYLE-PRICE

Just sterilise it! I understand that the latest advice is that thumb-sucking is worse for teeth than a dummy, and that neither is a disaster as long as it doesn't continue for too long. Properly sterilised, a dummy is no worse and indeed a good deal better than most other things that will find their way into your baby's mouth.
KIM MOLNAR
Preston, Lancashire

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My girlfriend read a book on relationships and we decided to be more honest with each other. I told her about two girls I'd had long affairs with and loved, in the past. She told me she still felt a bit in love with her old boyfriend, which really upset me. She also said she didn't think I had a sense of humour. I told her that although I loved her, I wished she'd lose weight. Obviously we told each other good things as well, but my girlfriend is still hurt about my past affairs. The

idea was to make us feel closer, but we're further apart. I feel stupid that we took advice from a book, and confused about honesty. How honest should you be? Yours sincerely, Dennis

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from *The Independent*. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, fax 0171-293 2183; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet

POETIC LICENCE

THE 'EASY' DIVORCE SKETCH
BY MARTIN NEWELL

In a bid to put "family values" firmly back on the Tory agenda, William Hague has said that couples should be made to wait longer before they are allowed to divorce. He claims that divorce is too easy.



Her lawyers said to write it down
The muttered curse, a fleeting frown
Refusal to co-operate
If reconstrued might lend some weight
As proof in court. Effective? Rather
Unfitness as the children's father.
The means become the end alone
And scarified upon that stone
All money time and sanity
To please this great god, Custody.

His lawyer. Reassuring. Posh.
Did sod all good. Still took the dosh.
Not infidelity. As such.
They fought? Of course. She spent too much.
The house, the kids, the car... the lot.
His drinking. That began the rot.
"Don't shout!" Which prompted one attack.
"I've just got in... she's on my back.
The kids are crying. It's hurling plates.
That's it. On sofa. Round me mate's."

Could hardly saw the house in half
Could he? Reason with her? Laugh?
Down the pub, his mates had said:
"She's got you now mate." Better dead
Than join the Sunday Father Squad.
End up some bitter, sad old sod.
The kids collected from her door
One frantic weekend out of four
And shouted at, when one was sick
"I SAID not many SWEETS. You THICK?"

She for her part, knackered, lonely.
Sometimes got out. Weekends only.
Men seemed slightly wary now
More fish in sea, less bites somehow.
They didn't mind that she'd been wed.
They found out she'd got kids, they fled.
The maintenance? Well that was late.
Her mum said: "CSA. You wait."
And then the bastard wriggled free.
Just killed himself. Deliberately.

So you still want to send the kids to boarding school?

'Fainting' is not the only release from boredom in boarding schools. Nor is it new. By Jack O'Sullivan

He is in his forties now, but for this ex-boarding school pupil, the memory of "fainting" is fresh. "You would go up and down like this, holding your breath," he demonstrates, bending his knees vigorously. "Then you would stand up and you would faint. Of course, someone was supposed to catch you when you fell over, but if they didn't you could bang your head. Fainting gave you a buzz."

At a now-closed Wiltshire boarding school, girls passed out using a different method. "You would hug someone until they fainted," recalls a former pupil. "It was consensual, and you got this momentary feeling of being out of control."

Indeed, fainting for fun is a practice with which even toddlers are only too familiar. My own two-year-old daughter loves to turn round and round over faster in circles until she crashes to the ground either laughing or crying, her head all of a spin.

Fainting is part of an ancient and enduring childhood culture, passed on

The attraction, said one pupil, was that fainting 'made you feel abnormal'

by young people to each other seemingly without reference to adults and somehow forgotten by grown-ups. Perhaps this explains why adults were apparently so shocked to hear of Nicholas Taylor's recent death at Eton. Nicholas, 15, had been playing the "fainting game", in which a dressing-gown cord was gradually tightened around a boy's neck to restrict the flow of oxygen to his brain. Normally, it was done by a group. "You would tap on your thigh," said one pupil at the inquest. "When you stopped tapping, it would signal the others to let go." The attraction, said another pupil, was that "it made you feel abnormal".

But Nicholas went one step further than his peers. He is believed to have attempted the thrill for himself by tying one end of the cord to the door of his room. He accidentally killed himself by asphyxiation. Death by misadventure was the coroner's verdict.

The tragedy has put the spotlight on other, often equally dangerous, practices undertaken within the confines of boarding schools, where the private world of children can create its own mad rituals.

It is not just a boys' thing. The fainting-through-hugging ex-schoolgirl recalls: "Apart from smoking, taking dope and drinking cider, a great favourite was spraying deodorant into a



It's the combination of isolation and peer pressure that can lead to wild behaviour

Hulton Getty

plastic bag and inhaling it. The dizziness it produced was said to be very pleasant, although the price you paid was an unspeakable headache half-an-hour later. But people still did it because you could be amazingly bored stuck in an artificial environment."

Girls in other schools likewise have their moments of craziness. In 1994, girls at Roedean painted an 80-ft replica of Dorset's Cerne Abbas giant on their sports field the day before sports day. The same year, 51 fifth-formers from a girls' boarding school in Oxfordshire ran amok in the school grounds, hurling stink-bombs, paint and eggs. People were awoken a quarter of a mile away by the riot.

The peer pressure to do something wild is particularly strong in boarding schools, says Mary MacLeod, of Childline, which will soon revive a special

helpline service for boarders. "Young people in boarding schools spend an awful lot of time together. They are looking for more from each other, so that ups the ante. And because they don't have homes to go to in the evening, they don't get out of the situation. So a culture of risky behaviour can develop, particularly among boys proving their masculinity."

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, is a good example. He found a way of becoming popular at Eton after experiencing initial misery. "I gathered together a group of boys who were also not great sportsmen and formed a sort of dangerous sports club," he recalls. "The aim was to climb to the top of the highest school buildings at night. This took a certain ingenuity, because we were forbidden to go out at night, and I had to get out of the bedroom I

shared with 45 other boys and do it without being noticed.

"The next hurdle was getting through the lighted streets to the target building, climbing up the outside and adorning the summit with some sort of marker. Then we had to get back into bed again without being detected." Fortunately for Sir Ranulph, he never fell off a building.

He is not the only public figure to have engaged in bizarre and dangerous pranks at school. In his autobiography, General Sir Peter de la Billiere describes how, while a pupil at Harrow, he took a 22 rifle from the school armoury and tried to shoot out the lights of a room full of celebrating pupils. "I rested the rifle on the railings of the teaching-block," he writes, "and took a couple of pot shots. For some reason I missed the bull's."

Ex-public school boarders will describe equally bizarre goings-on involving ouija boards, drugs and alcohol. "I know five people who are heroin addicts," said one friend. "They all started at boarding school."

Mary MacLeod is unsurprised by such behaviour. "Some children in boarding school are all grown-up with nowhere to go," she says. "This is particularly true these days when young people seem to be growing up faster. They are surrounded by images of the exciting life young people could have. But they can't get at it. That increases their interest in developing some excitement."

The death of Nicholas Taylor at Eton has prompted criticism that the school authorities should have known more about what was going on and stopped it. One witness told the inquest: "On average six or seven faintings took place each evening. I was 'fainted' about 20 times."

However, the structure of boarding often makes it hard for teachers to know what is going on — especially somewhere like Eton, which emphasises independence and privacy; pupils have their own rooms. It's also

'I know five people who are heroin addicts. They all started at boarding school'

worth remembering that boarding school pupils do not themselves know what some of their peers are up to.

"It was only after I left that I knew about the covert relationships that would have scandalised my school," says another former boarder. "I was totally unaware, although perhaps I should have realised from a revue when a junior dressed up as a girl and an older boy played his lover."

Eton's hierarchy seems equally mystified to learn about the prevalence of "fainting". John Lewis, the head-teacher, says teachers have spoken "in the strongest terms" to pupils about the practice. But lecturing young boarders may not be the answer.

"A school needs a system of pastoral care that involves the pupils themselves," says MacLeod. "It's not enough for instructions to come down from teachers. There is a gap between adults and young people, and we forget that at our peril. Young people have their own lives and will exclude adults. So it is extremely difficult to know what is going on. Young people must be encouraged to work with teachers to create a comfortable emotional environment. Hopefully it will direct their energy in a safer direction."

Childline's freephone number is 0800 1111

JP 11/10/1999

Lulu Belle Wiseman

Leading from the front

Conducting takes up half Benjamin Zander's life. The rest is spent inspiring politicians, moguls, children. Anyone. By Louise Gray

It's an early morning seminar at the London Business School and the 60 students on the Sloan Fellowship MBA programme - a course designed for high-achievers, CEOs and decision-makers looking to go that notch higher - are singing "Happy Birthday". Pretty badly, too. It is a monotonous, half-throated sound and the birthday boy, a soberly suited student called Palat Achmihan, is standing on a chair at the front of a lecture hall, looking faintly embarrassed.

Benjamin Zander, the seminar leader, orchestral conductor and organiser of this unorthodox spectacle, is unimpressed. "You are the future leaders of the western world! Is that the best you can do? It's not to you, it's to YOU!" - and Zander throws his arms towards Palat. The class launches another salvo. "No, don't attack him! Do it with tenderness and love!"

And again the song is repeated, Zander gesturing to the object of the song and accentuating the phrases with conductorly gestures. Within minutes, the once-terpid song has been transformed into a rousing chorus, sung with palpable feeling. Palat looks flushed and also very pleased. "This," says Zander, "is something he won't forget for a while."

Nor, indeed, will anyone else in the room. After 10 minutes, Zander has pulled these future (in Tom Wolfe's words) masters of the universe together into a group which acts effectively in concert. To emphasise his point, Zander rounds off the three-hour seminar by leading the entire class in "an incredibly loud and expressive performance of the 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's Ninth" sung, of course, in German.

It's no mean feat and yet it's one that Zander has been repeating weekly for the last decade, with groups as various as the US Army, NASA, blue chip corporations (last month in Arizona, he zapped 4,000 Pizza Hut managers in one sitting) and schools, including Eastlea, an East End comprehensive in one of London's most deprived areas.

Zander has been rightly described as one of the most able communicators since Leonard Bernstein. The day after the performance described above, he addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos, attended by, among others, Tony Blair. Tonight he's back in London to conduct Mahler at the Royal Festival Hall, and tomorrow he'll speak to Lewisham Council's 800-strong housing department.

Now in his 60th year, the English-born Zander lives at a tempo many half his age would find exhausting, and at a breathtaking level of engagement. He began his career as a cellist before switching to conducting. He has made a significant mark as both educator - at the New England Conservatory, where he has taught for 35 years - and as conductor with the Boston Philharmonic, with a series of landmark recordings of Beethoven and Stravinsky.

"Beethoven is, bless his heart, capable of speaking to everyone," he says, and to prove it, he always leads his audiences in the "Ode to Joy" - including the Eastlea children, "who had never seen a grand piano, let alone an orchestra". His eyes shine. "The 'Ode to Joy' is not the European anthem," he says, "but a song for the possibility of the human being."



Benjamin Zander: described as one of the most able communicators since Bernstein

Sisti Burn

Conducting is a profession which has, Zander jokes, "a dictatorial image. It's the last bastion of totalitarianism." But one of its crucial skills is leadership, which is why the business community has taken Zander to their global bosom. Ten years ago, he was invited, in his capacity as professor of music at the New England Conservatory in Boston, to address the Young Presidents' Association.

"What I did was bring them to an orchestra rehearsal, and invite them to sit with the players. As I conducted, I noticed certain things that were similar between a conductor and any other kind of leader. A conductor does everything just before it happens; it's too late if you act with it. I realised that what I was doing must look strange, so I stopped to explain. It's really no use for a CEO to be with the company, I said by way of analogy; he must be ahead of it."

From these beginnings, Zander developed, in tandem with his family-therapist wife Rosamund ("We separated 14 years ago, but she's a close friend and a brilliant, original thinker"), a new theory of leadership. It goes like this: leaders are people with vision, and our new global society needs new types of leaders, ones who can - in one of Zander's catchphrases - "think outside the box", who can make distinctions, challenge their assumptions. Contribution, rather than success, is the essence, he says, adding that to think otherwise is to be caught in a downward spiral where you are forever measuring performance against another indicator.

Success in that sense, he says, doesn't matter; it's all invented and means nothing. His ideas, as much as his performance, are cited as life-changing encounters with an immediate and lasting accessibility. Veneria Veselina, a London-based investment banker, spoke of how "Zander's sense of contribution, or mission, really generates enthusiasm. People do discover different meanings in what he says; it depends on your own experiences."

"Music is just a metaphor for other experiences," Zander says, "and it's incredibly powerful in its ability to break the barriers that keep us separate and unable to express our humanity. It's something that I have access to."

Zander is clearly out to something. Even the Industrial Society has recently reported, in a new publication on leadership, that command management is no longer appropriate for modern times: what is needed now is a more people-orientated approach. It seems that Zander has anticipated them. In the Eighties, when firms wanted to develop leadership qualities among workers, they sent them over military assault courses. The message was blunt: business was an arena in which only the toughest survived.

Does Zander's popularity indicate the development of a softer, more caring society? Now even the RSC offers workshops to non-actors, in order to bring out ways of expression.

"It is precisely that," replies Zander. "The new global society calls out for a different person. We used to think, if I can beat my neighbour, I'll be better off. We now know that's not true. When we read about the disastrous Japanese economy, we realise that it will have an impact on us. It's now a global society, so it's more like a symphony orchestra than a football game."

"In an orchestra, the secret is to allow everybody's voice to be heard, for the violas and the trombones to be equally expressive and not drown the other out: if that happens, all you get is chaos."

Benjamin Zander conducts the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall, London, SE1 in Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Johann Strauss's 'Emperor Waltz' tonight at 7.30pm (0171-960 4242), with a pre-concert talk (RFFL, 6pm; admission free with concert ticket).

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Arms and the working man

ONE OF the key scenes in Trust, the highly involving - and very involved - new play by Ulster dramatist Gary Mitchell, takes place up at the Knocknagur Monastery, a lonely location frequented not by those who wish to pay their respects to the dead, but by couples wanting a clandestine fling in a car.

Trust doesn't whack you over the head much with symbols, but there's a calculated, heavily ironic mismatch here between setting and purpose. The Knocknagur Monastery commemorates the people of Antrim who perished in the Great War fighting side by side with Englishmen. The picture presents a unified Protestantism tragically disintegrated in the present-day circumstances in Trust. The spot is the site of a tense meeting between a disaffected

THEATRE
TRUST
ROYAL COURT AT THE AMBASSADORS
LONDON

Special in the British Army and his Northern Irish girlfriend who, in order to get out of that hellhole are prepared to sell arms, and the couple of working-class "guardians" of the Protestant community who may be prepared to buy.

As with Declan Croghan's recent play *Paddy Irishman*, *Paddy Englishman* and *Paddy...*, the accent here is much more on potentially violent intra-community problems than on inter-community ones. The play pitches you into this tribally complex world and a refusal to make concessions to facilitate intelligibility is a strong virtue both of Mitchell's

writing and of Mick Gordon's wonderfully authentic, porous and spacially directed production. It makes compelling psychological use of one of the steeply raked aisles at the Ambassadors and inserts a little landing pad right among the audience.

For an English person, the experience is rather as if you have been rendered invisible and abandoned, bracingly, to find your own way round the minutiae of a world that doesn't know you're there. Most of the often very funny drama takes place in the sitting room of Patrick O'Kane's brilliantly banked-down, simmering and measuredly mordant Georgie, the community's "protector". You brace yourself for the inevitable point that, in looking after the interests of all the folk who crowd his house, Georgie has neglected the needs of his



Patrick O'Kane, Gregg Fitzgerald and Colum Convey in Trust

nearest and dearest - particularly the nerdy, misfit teenage son Jake (Gregg Fitzgerald) whose headachy and unbecomingly virile. The kid is being picked on at school. Will the re-

talians leave him in greater danger? Linked to the arms-selling plot and involving the kind of alleged deals that Protestant police families and the British Government seem prepared to countenance to

prevent anything that would embarrass the peace process, the outcome depends on too much of a thriller switchback ride for my taste, and I must say I've never cared for endings that leave someone making a fateful telephone call.

It's the scenes with more slack and flexibility in them that impress, like the hilarious pub trip where Jake starts downing pints through simple thirst and half-wises up to what is required of him, thus turning the tables on Georgie and his klutzy would-be macho sidekick (Colum Convey). Or the conversations where an appalling history of crime suddenly surfaces with a blackly comic casualness. That's the side of his gift in which Mitchell could place greater trust.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 3 April (0171-565 5000)

Marxism today

THEATRE
ANIMAL CRACKERS
LYRIC THEATRE
LONDON

EVERYBODY'S FAVOURITE response to a ticket for a show is "what's it about?" Well, you asked. Mrs Rittenhouse, the well-upholstered, stinking rich Long Island society hostess is throwing a party to celebrate the unveiling of a statue owned by Roscoe W Chandler, who isn't the art patron he pretends to be - he's Abe Kablebale the no-good Czechoslovakian fish peddler. You with me so far? Then the guest of honour, Jeffrey T Spaulding - "the T stands for Edgar" - arrives with much hoo-hah and everyone sings "Hooray for Captain Spaulding", and he sings "Hello, I Must Be Going" before enticing his hostess with an insurance scam while toying with her affections and those of next door's vulgar vamp, Mrs Van Damme. "How can someone be so ugly with just one head?" At which point Signor Emanuel Ravelli turns up to negotiate his musician's fee with his partner The Professor, who doesn't speak, blows his horn and has a sideline in kleptomaniac. And that's just the first 10 minutes.

Of course, you'd have to be certifiably insane to watch the Marx Brothers for the plot. The glory of this Manchester Royal Exchange revival of the original stage show *Animal Crackers* is the casting. Toby Sedgwick may not play the harp (he does a solo on the saw instead) but who cares when he captures Harpo's unique mix of low cunning and heart-breaking innocence to rapturously funny effect. Whether indulging in rampant skirt-chasing or flee-

ing guests, Joseph Alessi's permanently on-the-make Chico appears to hold a masters degree in hoodwinking.

The Lynchpin however, is the sublimely funny Ben Keaton, whose Groucho is a marvel. Wonderfully relaxed - and thus all the more engaging - punning and spinning through the joyously preposterous routines with timing to die for, leaping between insane good humour and defiant outrage like the master himself.

Unfortunately, whenever they're off-stage, everything plummets. You always did want to shoot the all-singing, romantic juvenile leads and these two are no exception. But the real problem is the direction. There's no rhythm to carry you over the holes in the structure - although decent lighting to isolate moments would help. It feels like everyone was so busy staging the gloriously anarchic set-pieces that they forgot everything else. Encouraging the actors to vault over the top is not the answer. Yet watching the three central performances, all doubts vanish. Whenever they depart from the script - often - it hits you that these three pranksters are beyond mere impersonation. They're sensational.

DAVID BENEDICT
Booking: 0171-494 5045

One for all and all for one

ANY ORCHESTRA that tackles Sibelius enters into a musical contract where disciplined thinking is an essential priority: lose the plot for as much as a moment, and the structure suffers. And there can be no passengers among the players.

Sunday night's London Philharmonic presentation of Sibelius's magnificent symphonic fantasy, *Polyloja's Daughter* - a tale where magic and dejection are set in the Finnish northland - carried absolutely no passengers. Conductor Paavo Berglund inspired the orchestra to perform

CLASSICAL
BERGLUND/ANDSNES/
LONDON PHILHARMONIC
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

as a single entity and the extraordinary components of Sibelius's icy narrative were focused without any discernible lapses in concentration. Berglund's priorities include a precisely charted overview, well-defined execution and due attention to even the smallest instrumental detail. And what a work it is! Some of

the scoring dwarfs virtually anything else written at the turn of the century, especially in terms of the brass, lower woodwinds, harp and double-basses. There are startled climaxes, eerie alarms and stretches of musical time where nothing registers except the subtlest shudder.

Polyloja ends quietly (never a comforting sign with Sibelius), but on Sunday night high spirits jumped back with the start of Beethoven's Second (really his first) Piano Concerto. The soloist was the young and prodigiously gifted

Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. His entry was poised and confident, forceful without sounding forced.

He has an ability to "think through" a score, knit its elements into a whole, so that every gesture contributes to the one cogent statement.

For me, however, the evening's musical high point was a reading of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony where those virtues of honesty, directness and a flat refusal to distort the musical line least one of the repertoire's best-loved war horses a new lease of life.

Berglund set to work at a sensibly mobile tempo, then sprung into action for one of the most vivacious accounts of the first movement that I have heard in recent years.

Potential pitfalls are plentiful, and the more indulgent conductors visit them frequently, but Berglund kept up the pace, flew from episode to episode without ceremony and inspired some of the LPO's finest playing this season.

In the slow movement, Richard Bissill's solo horn surpassed all reasonable expectations - a tender statement of

one of Tchaikovsky's most indelible melodies, warmed with just a smidgen of expressive rubato. The waltz was very lively, perhaps a little too much so for the tricky instrumental exchanges that sit at its centre, but the finale forged forwards with energy and panache.

Berglund and the LPO recently made an impressive CD of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony (for the Classic FM Label), so maybe Sunday's performance signals a similar success with the Fifth. I sincerely hope it does.

ROB COWAN

FILM

They're out to get you

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

DIRECTOR: MARK PELLINGTON
STARRING: JEFF BRIDGES,
TIM ROBBINS, JOAN CUSACK,
MASON GAMBLE, HOPE DAVIS
117 MINUTES

It begins with a blurred figure weaving slowly down a road, like a marathon runner woozy with fatigue. The camera swoons around a young boy who's sweating and hyperventilating; dimly recalled voices urge him on as spots of blood start to dapple his sneakers. A car pulls up, a man jumps out and takes the boy, who we now see is charred and bleeding, in his arms; next thing we know he's blatting through emergency room doors as hospital staff swarm around the stricken child.

The first few minutes of *Arlington Road* constitute probably the best opening of any film this year. Director Mark Pellington thrusts us right in *medias res* – that's Latin for a taut psychological thriller – before we've had a chance to get our bearings. Can the film sustain this ominous flurry? The man who rushes the kid to hospital is Michael Faraday (Jeff Bridges), a professor of American history in Washington DC; the boy is the son of his new neighbours across the way, Oliver Lang (Tim Robbins) and his wife Cheryl (Joan Cusack), all-American types who have barbecues in the back yard and sports clothes that are just the wrong side of casual. Apparently their boy had been fooling around with fireworks, but he'll be just fine.

Michael becomes friends with the Langs, even though he's not quite sure about Oliver. What are those strange architectural plans in his study, and why does he get mail from a university he's supposedly never attended? Tim Robbins has an alarming fringe, like Jim Carrey's in *Dumb and Dumber*, and there's something about the wholesomeness of his suburban everyman that feels deeply suspect. But then Jeff Bridges isn't quite all there either; he's done something odd to his voice that makes him sound as though he's holding an invisible thermometer under his tongue. Pellington seems to be conducting a little competition to see which of the two actors will freak out first.

My money was on Bridges, who presses the hysteria pedal early on and never takes his foot off thereafter. Michael is still



Jeff Bridges: as obsessive as James Stewart in 'Rear Window', convinced that something is lurking across the street

haunted by the death of his wife, an FBI agent who was killed in a stakeout. She died for her country, a friend tells him. "She shouldn't have," he replies, bitterly angry about the government's shirking of responsibility in the affair. He keeps his wounds open by lecturing his classes on conspiracy theory and the complacent scapegoating of one man in a recent terrorist outrage. (The Oklahoma City bombing and militia groups are the co-ordinates by which the movie steers its plot.) His refusal to come to terms with his wife's murder has upset relationships both with his

girlfriend Brooke (Hope Davis) and his 10-year-old son, who wants to go off to scout camp with Lang's kid.

Brooke thinks Michael has gone off the deep end when she hears he's been tampering with Lang's mail. "Are you teaching the Bill of Rights this semester, or is that not in your programme?" You can see her point. He's much too shrill with his paranoia; if he just calmed down a little she might lend a more sympathetic ear. But, once Michael gets the scent that something's amiss, he's as obsessive as James Stewart in *Rear Window*, convincing him-

self (if nobody else) that something dangerous lurks behind the façade across the street. Pellington works up this atmosphere of creeping dread quite nicely in the first 45 minutes, even if he hasn't persuaded Bridges to pace his performance. There's a Hitchcockian stealth in the patient accumulation of detail – neat domestic interiors, an awkward dinner party, kids playing war games – which serves to assure and unsettle both at once. The film examines the idea of the neighbourhood watch, but it's not burglars you're meant to watch for – it's your neighbours.

It's in trying to close the plot's noose that *Arlington Road* rather loses its way. The psychological intricacy of its early stages gradually gives way to the more straightforward demands of a conspiracy thriller, and the clues to its meaning become steadily more pronounced, less plausible. Is that a wave or a fascist salute Oliver throws to Michael? Would Michael really take his students to the FBI murder scene where his wife died and practically accuse the authorities of a cover-up? The climax, with the gallant prof slaloming through city traffic in pursuit of a terrorist bomber, is

galumphingly soundtracked and unhappily recalls the dire thriller *Blown Away*, in which Bridges traded Irish accents with explosives-genius Tommy Lee Jones. Yet this film is made of sterner stuff, and delivers an ending of uncompromising bleakness: one imagines it tested very badly with preview audiences, which should earn Pellington and his writer, Ehren Kruger, respect for refusing to go the Hollywood way.

Indeed, the beginning and end of the movie are so unusual it almost encourages you to overlook the shortcomings of the middle. Two out of three ain't bad.

ROBERT HANKS ON TV



The appeal of 'Sunset Beach' is straightforward: it's the last bastion of Victorian melodrama

PAGE 18

ALSO SHOWING

WAKING NED KIRK JONES (PG) ■ SEUL CONTRE TOUS GASPAR NOÉ (18) ■ APRILE NANNI MORETTI (NC)
■ A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY JOHN FORTENBERRY (15) ■ SOUTHPAW LIAM MCGRATH (15)

WAKING NED is a tender-hearted Irish comedy about the mixed blessings of a huge Lottery win. Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen) learns from a notice in the *Irish Times* that there's a jackpot winner in his own little town of Tully More (pop 52), and after holding a chicken supper for his fellow villagers he and his wife Annie (Fionnula Flanagan) narrow down the suspects to one: Ned Devine. Ned indeed turns out to hold the winning ticket. He also turns out to be dead. Terrified that the windfall will go the same way as Ned's corpse, Jackie enlists the help of his old pal Michael (David Kelly) in an elaborate scheme to gull the Lottery people and pocket the loot for themselves.

Début writer-director Kirk Jones handles the often farcical plotting with admirable zest, and keeps the tendency towards twinkling Irishness firmly in check. While the sight of Ian Bannen and David Kelly whizzing around bollock-naked on a motorbike isn't altogether agreeable, the easy familiarity

of these two old stagers is nonetheless key to the film's charm. A subplot involving a pig farmer and a single mum is sketchy, and the black comedy ending is straight out of *Father Ted*, but *Waking Ned*, even at its flimsiest, is hard to dislike.

Nanni Moretti's *Aprile* isn't the worst film of the year, but it's certainly the most inconsequential. A follow-up to his acclaimed *Dear Diary*, it's a rambling tour through the Roman film-maker's latest preoccupations. On the professional front, he dithers over making a musical about a pastry chef, assembling cast and crew only to abandon the project on the first day of shooting. Personally, he's as nervous as a kitten over his wife's pregnancy, and is further distracted by television reports on the forthcoming Italian elections.

Moretti is an excitable, hand-wringing type, which might explain why his film is so desultory and uneven: whether buzzing around Rome on his Vespa or ranting on a soapbox at Speak-



'Waking Ned'

er's Corner in Hyde Park, he seems unable to concentrate on anything for more than five minutes. This might not matter so much if he had anything that resembled a point, but he seems almost proud of his own whimsical irrelevance. How his wife puts up with him I couldn't say. *Aprile* is no more than a home movie that should have stayed exactly there – at home.

Any hopes raised by the sight of Amy (Chloe) Heckerling's name in the opening production credits were dashed within five minutes of *A Night at the Roxbury*. Expanded from a Satur-

day *Night Live* sketch, which will mean practically nothing over here, this comedy about a pair of lame-brain disco playboys is clueless in all the wrong ways. Steve and Doug Butabi (Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan) work in their dad's fake-flower shop by day; by night they cruise around LA being refused entry into all the desirable nightspots. So they dream of opening their own dance place and – hey presto – find an unlikely patron in the form of a nightclub impresario (Chazz Palminteri, his name significantly uncredited), the only person in town who can't see through their fake tans and vulgar jewellery to the dorks they really are. Perhaps the brothers' head-bobbing disco moves are funny within a two-minute sketch, but the script (which took three people to write) is short on wit and long on daft slapstick routines. After a while you may find the film's imbecile energy a source of fascination in itself: how long can they keep this up? The answer is 82 minutes, though judging by the funeral silence at the press screening it probably seemed a good deal longer.

"You live alone, you're born alone, you die alone" – thus reflects the protagonist of Gaspar Noé's *Seul Contre Tous*, a flashy, brutal, nihilistic study of a mind in freefall. Set in the cheerless reaches of provincial France, it burrows deep into the consciousness of an unemployed butcher (Philippe Nahon) whose parents died in a concentration camp. Having done time for knifing a man he believed had abused his daughter, he goes on the run after viciously assaulting his pregnant mistress. Noé makes us privy to the butcher's interior monologue, a relentless stream of bilious rage and despair that seems to admit no relief.

The film has already garnered prizes from festivals around the world, including the Critics' Prize at Cannes, and will doubtless enthrall filmgoers who like their misanthropy served raw and bloody.

To be honest, I found the whole thing a trial to sit through; the pitiable anguish of Nahon's performance aside, the granicky captions, intermittent gunblasts and modish editing all speak of a director almost adolescently eager to epater. Liam McGrath's documentary *Southpaw* recounts two years in the life of Francis Barrett, a 19-year-old light welterweight boxer from Galway who became a folk-hero when he qualified for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. An unusual folk-hero at that: Barrett was the first traveller ever to represent Ireland, a background as beleaguered and poor as any pugilist's. The film values grit and edge over style, and the boxing has more the look of a brawl than any contest of agility. But Barrett carries himself with a dignity and a curious innocence one doesn't readily associate with his profession. AQ

All films on general release from tomorrow

VIDEO WATCH

Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels (18), available to rent

FOUR LADS-about-town, £500,000 in hock to the local mobster Harry the Hatchet, are about to find out how he earned his nickname, unless they can stump up within a week.

Against all the odds, Guy

Ritchie's cocksure tribute to the classic British crime caper movie – the most financially successful British film of last year – succeeds. The dialogue is a thinly disguised love-letter to East End geezer patois, the acting is even more embarrassing and the various sub-plots, including a bunch of ex-public

schoolboy hash dealers, barely hang together. Ritchie more than makes amends elsewhere. It is shot on sepiatone and stitched together with all manner of bravura touches – slo-mo, collage, time-lapse – but the final effect is gaudier than a gangster's diamond tie-pin, and just as alluring.

Sting notwithstanding, the minor character casting is spot-on, with Vinnie Jones more than holding his own. And even if it occasionally feels like a pop promo, at least the music sound-track can't be faulted. But it's the all-round swagger of the film that convinces. Top banana. MIKE HIGGINS

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★★★★★
"AN ELECTRIFYING, INCENDIARY, ADRENALINE-SOAKED MASTERPIECE"
Don Rider - The Scotsman

SEUL CONTRE TOUS

Critics' Prize
Cannes Film Festival
1998

I STAND ALONE
DIRECTED BY GASPAR NOÉ

★★★★★ "STUNNING"
David Parkinson - Empire

"OVERPOWERING...EXHAUSTING ...COMPELLING"
Trevor Johnston - Time Out

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JP 11/10/50

The great films of the late Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski are celebrated this weekend in London. The maker of a documentary about him shares memories with David Winner, while Nick Kimberley talks to Zbigniew Preisner who wrote many of his film scores

A short film about Kieslowski

If he hadn't been a visionary film director, Krzysztof Kieslowski would have made a terrific odd-job man. According to one of his oldest friends, the creator of haunting, enigmatic masterpieces such as *The Double Life of Veronique* and *Three Colours*, Red derived immense satisfaction from putting up shelves and mending toasters.

"If you had a problem - with life, with marriage, with something in the house - he would come at once," recalls Krzysztof Wierzbicki. "He loved to make things or repair machines and he was ambitious about it. If you said to him: 'Krzysztof, help me because it's very difficult and I'm not very good at this kind of thing', he would try so hard to make it work to show you it wasn't so difficult."

Wierzbicki worked as Kieslowski's assistant on his early documentary films and later directed *I'm So So*, the definitive documentary about him, which is to be screened for the first time in Britain this weekend as part of a short festival dedicated to the late Polish director.

Patently, Wierzbicki still misses his friend, and has a wealth of stories attesting to his humanity, humour and his surprising skills. He remembers the film-maker, who died three years ago this week, as a devoted family man, a passionate smoker and a skilful stunt driver who delighted in sudden, perfect 180-degree turns. He even testifies to Kieslowski's Dr. Dolittle-like rapport with animals. "The wildest beasts became 'calm' and 'happy' when Krzysztof made friends with them," he recalls. "There was a warmth in him animals could feel. He could put his hand in the mouth of the most dangerous dog and nothing would happen."

In 1995, Wierzbicki inadvertently

became the keeper of Kieslowski's last film testament when he made *I'm So So* for Danish television.

In the film, Kieslowski talks elliptically and with characteristic intelligence about his career and beliefs. The film's title is taken from the director's laconic obser-



'Krzysztof was tired of making films. He wanted to be closer to real life'

vation: "When Americans ask me 'How are you?' I say 'I'm so-so'. They immediately think something tragic has happened. You can't say 'so-so'. You have to say 'Well' or 'Very well'. The most optimistic thing I can say is 'I'm still alive'."

"I wanted to show what Krzysztof was like as a person," says Wierzbicki. "In Poland, the media image of him at that time was that he was a very sad, even unpleasant man. Journalists used to say he was cold because he sometimes answered stupid questions: 'yes', 'no' and 'if you think so'. In my film, we showed the atmosphere that he made. For the first time, an

audience could see him smile."

As a director, Kieslowski came to loathe the exhausting business of filming. He regarded editing as the key creative process and worked with extraordinary dedication in the cutting-room. For *The Double Life of Veronique*, for example, he edited more than 20 separate versions before eventually coming up with the innovative structure of the final film.

After *Red*, Kieslowski announced that he was finished with film-making and retired. Many critics now believe that, had he lived, he would eventually have returned to directing, perhaps of scripts for a new trilogy about heaven, hell and purgatory on which he worked before his death. Wierzbicki strongly disagrees. "Krzysztof was tired of making films. He wanted to be closer to his friends and family, to real life, not life that was fiction. He would have continued to write scripts, teach and give advice to young film-makers, but in this decision he was absolutely serious."

Meanwhile, critical opinion about Kieslowski's films - which included quirky documentaries in the late Seventies, the epic moral and ethical inquiry of the *Dekalog* (10 hour-long films about the Ten Commandments) and his metaphysical explorations of fate, love and essential human values in *Double Life* and *Red, White and Blue* - remains divided.

While some rank him among the greats of European art cinema, others complain of pretension and lack of intellectual rigour.

"In Poland, everyone admires him now that he's dead, but Kieslowski had enemies when he was alive," says Wierzbicki bitterly. "You often heard critics say that his films were 'full of tricks' or 'less intel-



Irene Jacob in 'The Double Life of Veronique': he edited more than 20 separate versions of the film

tual than they pretend to be' and complaining that his philosophy was very simple. But these people didn't understand Kieslowski's films. Really, the films were not sophisticated - but that was their strength. They are simple films dealing with basic truths. Searching for truth - the truth about life, about basic values - was Kieslowski's obsession."

What he most wanted to avoid was being didactic, says Wierzbicki. "He never wanted to give solutions to people. Absolutely not. In my film he says: 'My profession is not to know but to ask questions', one

question after another. He believed that every question asked takes us nearer to truth."

I'm So So, which was shot on a friend's farm in the lakelands of north-eastern Poland, was made in the few months between Kieslowski's announcement of his retirement and his death at the age of 54 after a failed heart bypass operation.

"It was a horrible shock when he died," remembers Wierzbicki. Exhausted after making the *Three Colours* trilogy, Kieslowski had suffered a heart attack in August 1995. Yet by early 1996, freed from the

stress of film-making, he seemed to have recovered.

"When he went for the operation, he treated it like a visit to the dentist. He was full of life and energy. He said: 'I'll be out in three days'. He had even ordered a new car. He said to his wife: 'Call the garage and tell them to prepare this car because I've waited too long for it. When I'm back from the hospital I'll give them an argument like they never had before'."

"Now he is gone. It is the greatest tragedy and sadness for us. After Krzysztof died, someone said to

me: 'It is good that you made this film of him'. I told him: 'I would prefer to have Kieslowski living'."

"Film is nothing, but life is something important. Kieslowski also told us this. He said films pass. Life is what matters."

Krzysztof Wierzbicki will be talking about *I'm So So* after screenings of the film at the Polish Cultural Institute tonight and, as part of a short Kieslowski season, at the Curzon Soho, London, on Saturday.

DW

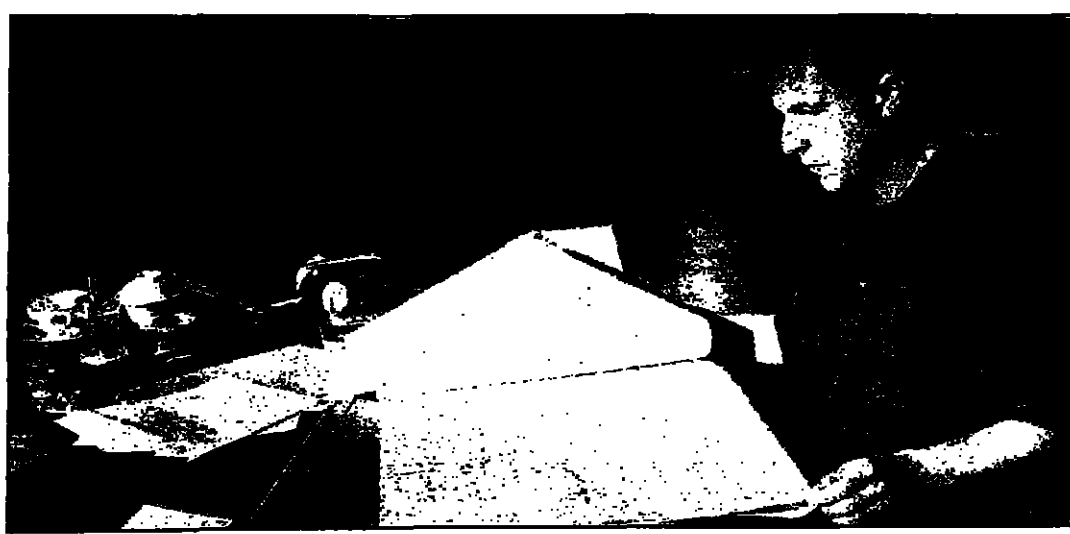
Requiem for my friend the director

WHETHER IN the flea-pit or the art-house, it's difficult to imagine cinema without music. Indeed, for some film-makers, music enters the cinematic process at the very beginning, as in the collaboration between the director Theo Angelopoulos and the composer Eleni Karaindrou. The latest film on which they collaborated, *Eternity and a Day*, opens in Britain in May.

Karaindrou remembers their first film together: "That was *Voyage to Cythera* in 1984. Angelopoulos told me the story. I saw no image, not even a script, just what he told me in that four-hour session. I grasped what he was looking for and the next day I worked out my themes at the piano. Two days later I went back. He liked what he heard and asked me to record it with an orchestra, then he'd see where he could place the music in the film. So I completed my music before any of the shooting started. It's not the usual way of working, although I've heard that Fellini and Nino Rota often worked that way."

The Polish composer Zbigniew Preisner is best known for his scores for Kieslowski's films (including the *Three Colours* trilogy and *The Double Life of Veronique*). His experience of the score-writing process embraces most options: "I've written scores for almost 100 films. With Kieslowski, I would be involved from the beginning to the end of the process but, especially with American movies, you're often called in at the last stage, and you simply get on with the job."

"A lot of the time, I feel that directors don't understand how music works in film. It's not important for them; it's like a carpet going all the way through. In film, though, silence is important and the music has to prepare a space for that silence, which is often the best music. I enjoy seeing how the film changes with the music, discovering what sort of meaning my music can give the film image. If the director trusts the composer, everything works better. That's how it was. I think, writing for Kieslowski."



Keeping score: Zbigniew Preisner wrote the music for 'Three Colours Blue' Ronald Grant Archive

Karaindrou readily admits that working with Angelopoulos has been a formative experience. "When you work with a director like him, composing becomes a sort of psychoanalytic exercise. You have to dig within yourself to

find the atmosphere to match that vision. I make my music, not from screen images, but from interior ones, created by ideas or feelings. I don't like music that simply describes situations or underlines them. There has to be a

chemistry that uncovers what's behind the images. Otherwise it becomes a kids' fairy story." Preisner talks of creating a "climate" with his music for Kieslowski's films, yet he ruefully admits: "When you compose for a

film, you depend on input from the director, the studio staff, the producers, and of course sometimes you write music for a film that doesn't touch you because, in effect, somebody has placed an order and you have to meet their deadline. I can't work without deadlines, but when you write for the concert hall, you are freer, more independent."

So it is that Preisner has written his first concert piece, *Requiem for my Friend*, which receives its UK premiere tomorrow. "I'd become interested in mounting a concert, something like an opera or a mystery play. Kieslowski wanted to provide the *mise-en-scène*, and we talked about calling it *The Mystery of Life*. We were planning to put it on in the Acropolis in Athens. But Kieslowski died in 1996, and I composed some music for his funeral, with just organ and voice. Later I thought I should do a concert as a way of saying something about our life and work together. I recomposed part of the music that I'd written for his

funeral. The result became *Requiem for my Friend*."

Hardly a 20th-century composer has not been tempted by what cinema offers. As Karaindrou says, "Good film music is music that digs beneath the surface of situations", a description that holds good for the concert hall, the opera house and the ballet. Film is simply another idiom for composers to grapple with, and if the music that Preisner and Karaindrou write for the concert hall has been infected by their film experiences, that proves that the relationship between cinema and concert hall is not a parasitic one, but symbiotic.

Preisner's *Requiem for my Friend* can be heard tomorrow at the Royal Festival Hall, London (0171-960 4242); the recording is available on Erato. Karaindrou's scores for Angelopoulos's films are available on CD: 'Ulysses', 'Gaze' and 'Eternity and a Day' (both on ECM).

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Un homme et des femmes

Women, their lives and dilemmas, have been the constant subject of Eric Rohmer's films over forty years. Geoffrey MacNab meets the three actresses who appear in his latest, *An Autumn's Tale*



Alexia Portal and Beatrice Romand in *An Autumn's Tale*

Anybody who tries to approach Eric Rohmer's new feature, *An Autumn's Tale*, expecting mist, gloom and mellow fruitfulness is likely to be disappointed. The two main characters may be women in their forties rather than the chic twentysomethings who have appeared in most of Rohmer's recent movies. They may be melancholic about the state of their love lives. (As one sighs wistfully to the other, "all the best men are taken".) The comedy may be tinged with sadness. But the truth is, the late-season sun blazes down throughout. Regardless of the romantic complications, the tone of the film (the last of Rohmer's "Tales of the Four Seasons") remains remarkably cheerful. But for once, Rohmer was thwarted by the weather. "He wanted more autumnal colours" reveals the actress Alexia Portal, "but the colours stayed green and the light was very soft."

Rohmer, now well into his seventies, is the most elusive of directors. It used to be claimed that not even his wife knew he was a filmmaker. "Rohmer" itself is an alias. (His real name is Jean-Marie Maurice Scherer.) When *An Autumn's Tale* was unveiled in Venice last September, the director wasn't there to accompany the screening. Instead, he sent his three leading ladies as emissaries.

Interviewed one balmy autumn afternoon on the terrace of the Excelsior (the most luxurious hotel on the Venice Lido), they talked about him with reverence and affectionate curiosity, as if they were describing a distinguished but eccentric elderly relative.

One of them, Beatrice Romand, first met Rohmer 30 years ago, when she auditioned as a 17-year-old for *Claire's Knee* (1970). She recalls being shown into a dark room with opium pipes hanging on dark red walls. "I saw this man, very thin, very beautiful, with his blue eyes piercing me." She was deeply suspicious.

"I was thinking maybe he was a director of porno films. All I wanted was to get out of that room."

On the face of it, Rohmer and Romand had nothing in common. Whereas the film-maker was a professor, a reserved, academic figure already in his forties, Romand was young, knew nothing of movies ("I didn't have money to go to the cinema") and hadn't even been to university.

"He was an intellectual and I was somebody from the heart," is how she characterises the difference between them. Nevertheless, she won the part in *Claire's Knee* and has worked with Rohmer many times since. Over the years, she believes, he has become less academic, "less like a professor from the university... he's now more involved in life than the abstraction of literature". He clearly regards her as a muse. "Maybe it's simple flattery," she says, "but each time I'm shooting a film for him I feel him looking at me with jubilation, and it gives me incredible pleasure."

Everything about Magali, Romand's character in *An Autumn's Tale*, suggests ripeness. She's a wine-grower whose vineyard (in stark contrast to those of her neighbours) is messy, luxuriant and full of weeds. She won't use herbicides in case they ruin the taste of her vineyards. Nor are her relationships with her children and would-be lovers any tidier than her vineyard.

Rohmer tracked down a real wine-grower in the South of France

as a model for Magali. Says Romand: "He presented me with this woman, saying 'Beatrice, she's not a sexy woman'. She's a little bit fat, a little bit clumsy. She doesn't wear make-up. She's spontaneous and she has large gestures. I copied them exactly as he wanted." Most important of all, says Romand with a smile, Rohmer didn't want Magali to be "refined".

Like her character in the movie, Romand in person is imperious, scatty and very funny. She flits between English and French, and clucks and scolds whenever she is asked what she believes to be a stupid question. She trails a kind of benevolent chaos in her wake. "Comprenez?" she fires out when her interviewer scratches his head after a long, rambling answer about the difference between written French and spoken French. She also disapproves, she confides, of how the once-meticulous Rohmer now sometimes lapses into slang. There were occasions when she had to set him straight about his use of grammar. "He told me, 'Beatrice, say it like that. I said no! Now, I am very proud that I know how to talk literature. I want to say it correct!'"

Not that she has anything but respect for the gentle way in which Rohmer habitually treats his cast. "He is cool, as young people say." Marie Riviere, who plays Magali's best friend, has also worked with Rohmer before, starring in *The Aviator's Wife* (1980) and *The Green Ray* (1985). "I have the impression he hasn't changed... he's even more quiet today... a quiet man, a very, very wise man," she ruminates.

An Autumn's Tale is full of private moments between Magali and Isabelle, and between Magali and her son's beautiful young girlfriend, Rosine (Alexia Portal). The main topic up for discussion is men: their shortcomings ("they're all idiots or perverts"), what they are good for, and how they should best be snared.

What does a septuagenarian such as Rohmer know about the innermost yearnings of young and middle-aged women?

"He is accurate, but I don't know

OUR FAVOURITE ROHMER HEROINES

The Collector, 1966
Stuck in St Tropez, bright, languid teenager Haydee Politoff plays havoc with two sophisticated best friends in this most lackadaisical but quietly serious example of Rohmer's work. As usual with this director, what begins as a study of the capricious female turns into a damning critique of the complacent male.

My Night with Maud 1969
Françoise Fabian is divorcee

Maud, the mercurial, wearily manic tease who turns Jean-Louis Trintignant's tight, Catholic world upside in. He's set his heart on demure blonde Marie-Cristine Barrault but, rest assured, Rohmer avoids any trite virgin/whore dilemma. Barrault too, we discover, is a bottomless pit of faith-shaking wisdom.

Claire's Knee, 1970
You fear the worst - middle-aged writer toys with pious Lolita (Beatrice Romand), whilst lusting

after glowing goddess (Laurence de Monaghan), but all three characters grow into their skin and Claire's indifference to Jean-Claude Brialy's oppressive gawping is positively sublime.

Love in the Afternoon, 1972
Hard to understand why Zouzou didn't go on to bigger and greater things. She's perfect as Chloe, the beguiling lay-about who fixes on married man Bernard Verley as the answer to her confused prayers. She's no

conventional beauty - all ramshackle hair and chunky thighs - but her presence is haunting.

Full Moon in Paris, 1984
Pascale Ogier is almost unbearable in this film - so vulnerable, pale and paper thin that Rohmer's detached amusement for once feels misplaced. However, her jittery search for a decent man - one both hunky and deep - still grips.

CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

why. He finds something poetical in what women say or do. He understands," confides Riviere. "He talks about universal things. That's why the films don't get old with time," suggests Alexia Portal. "His vision of the Nineties generation is very accurate, especially in *A Summer's Tale* and *An Autumn's Tale*."

Portal scoffs at the idea that Rohmer is out of touch by comparison with the young mavericks of French cinema, figures such as Mathieu Kassovitz (*La Haine*), François Ozon (*Sitcom*) and Gaspar Noé (*Seul Contre Tous*). "He doesn't wear fashionable clothing, but that's why many young people

can recognise themselves through these characters."

As for his directing style, all three women describe him as the most unobtrusive of film-makers. "He doesn't give direction at all," says Portal. "He doesn't like to talk about the psychology of the characters... he doesn't want the actors to think too much about what they're going to do and say. He has a small crew which always works quickly."

"It's very pleasant shooting; it's not heavy and technical," adds Riviere. "We're not kept waiting for a long time, he never does more than one or two takes, so we're not tense... it's like in life."

He tends to shoot in three-minute takes and there are no restrictions in terms of movement - the camera will follow the actors. "But every comma, every word is important. There is no improvisation," says Portal. "And if he gets bored or doesn't like the light, he'll just pack up for the day."

These three actors are trying to be helpful. They answer every question thoughtfully and politely, but somehow they just can't bring Rohmer into focus. At the end of an hour's conversation, he remains as mysterious as ever. Beatrice Romand makes him sound a little bit like the Scarlet Pimpernel. "He is

always surprising... you wait for him here and you find him there."

Portal agrees. "He cultivates an air of mystery about himself."

That doesn't mean that Rohmer is a misanthropic magus, pulling the strings behind the scenes. *An Autumn's Tale* is a gentle, warm-hearted comedy that will be accessible to all audiences. It is just that the man who made the film is hard to fathom. On one level, Rohmer's actors are perfect spokespersons for him. The more they try to reveal, the more inscrutable they make him seem. *An Autumn's Tale* is released on 26 March

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RUSHES

MIKE HIGGINS

IT SEEMS that the tech-heads at Nasa thought the space-suits featured in the film *Deep Impact* were kinda cool. So cool, in fact, that they've got in touch with the film's costume-maker, Chris Gilman, to discuss the possibility of designing the space-suits of the future. At least Gilman appears to have his feet on the ground, judging by his reaction in the *Los Angeles Times*: "You're the premier space agency in the world and you go to a Hollywood

effects company to design a space-suit. You got to be out of your mind."

FIVE YEARS after he made it, *Natural Born Killers* continues to be a millstone around Oliver Stone's neck. Last week, the US Supreme Court rejected an attempt by Time Warner to put to an end a lawsuit that seeks to hold the director liable for alleged "copycat" killings. The suit

cites murders carried out by a young couple in Louisiana and Mississippi three years ago, and claims that *Natural Born Killers* intended to incite its audience to commit these and similar crimes. While the Time Warner lawyers stated at an earlier hearing that they found it hard to believe that any conclusive proof could be presented against Stone, they were concerned enough to wish to present the case to the Supreme Court. The *Los Ang-*

les *Times* quoted a legal authority: "Hollywood ought to be very concerned. There is no way of knowing what a jury will do if this case goes to trial."

ACCORDING TO figures released last week, \$32.7m will get your average US film made, but you'll need half as much again for the marketing. While production costs are down, marketing costs have risen by 15 per cent.



Accused: Oliver Stone

DOUBLE BILL

STEVEN SODERBERGH, DIRECTOR OF 'SCHIZOPHOLIA', NOW ON RELEASE, ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

TOM JONES
(TONY RICHARDSON, 1963)
BARRY LYNDON
(STANLEY KUBRICK, 1975)

THERE HAS to be a nice contrast. It's not the most original double bill, but I would go to see them back to back, especially with Kubrick in all our minds right now. They are both English historical films, but are such radically different takes on the same genre, and I find them both compelling for completely different reasons.

On the surface, *Tom Jones* is the more engaging of the two. It's got that wonderful British new wave energy, whereas *Barry Lyndon* is compulsively controlled, methodical and deliberate in its pacing. And yet, whenever I catch *Barry Lyndon* on cable, no matter what point the film is at, I sit and watch it to the end.



Barry Lyndon is difficult first time around. You think "Gee, I'm not sure I really like that. I'm not sure why Ryan O'Neal is in it. I think that was slow." But, like a lot of Kubrick's films, it sticks in your brain. Really, it's an unending parade of arresting images. But there is a sense that something is going on behind those images. Its pleasures increase each time.



Tom Jones is pleasurable every time you see it, but always in the same way. You have this historical film with crazy helicopter shots, speeded-up action, freeze-frame and actors looking at the camera.

The differing intent of the two films is most obvious in the lead characters. They are both rascals, but it's hard to imagine two more different treatments of what

superficial and when these superficial feelings are taken away there is nothing left. So it illustrates the downside of leading a charmed life.

Both films explore a certain type of decadent sexuality. There is the very famous eating scene in *Tom Jones* where the two characters are seated at a table in a brothel devouring a meal in the most lascivious way possible.

By contrast, there's a scene in *Barry Lyndon* in which O'Neal and a host of actresses are in various states of undress, but it's all very asexual. There is no pleasure in it and no eroticism; there is no joy. I have never seen these films directly juxtaposed and I don't know whether my little mind could handle it. We will probably never find out.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

The inquiry into expanding Heathrow is over, but a decision is years away. By John Paul Flintoff

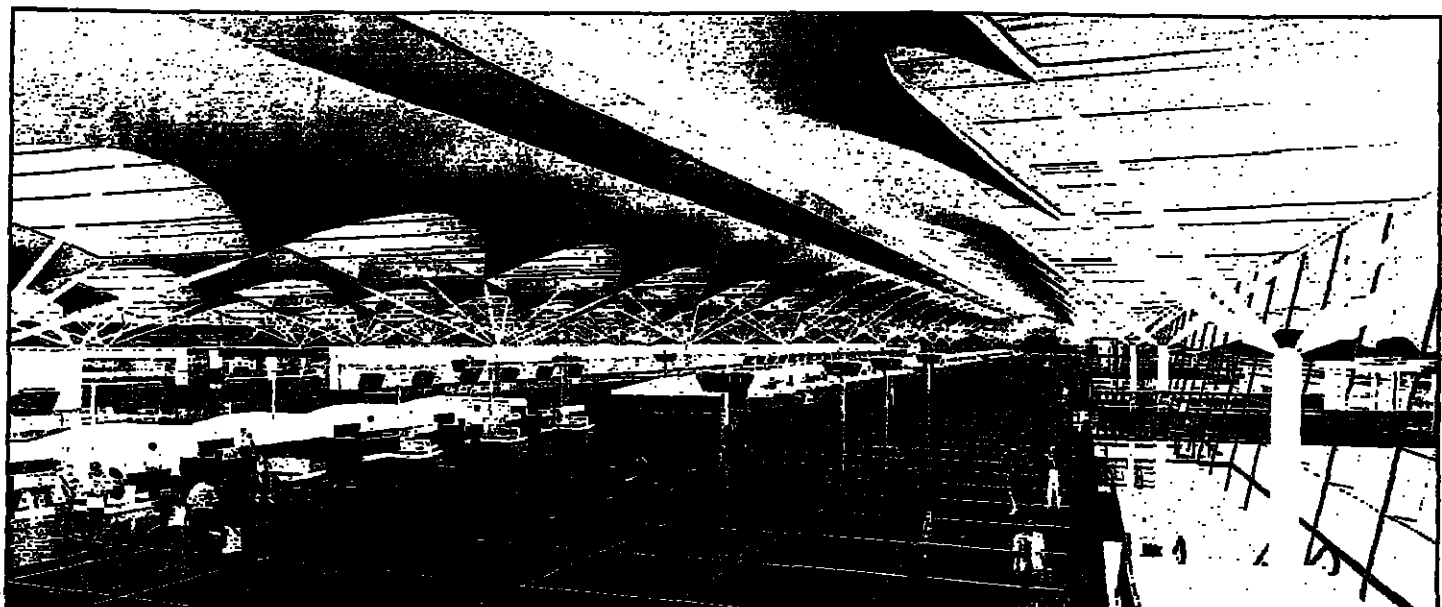
Terminal turbulence

In the softly lit lobby of the Renaissance Hotel at Heathrow Airport, a security guard writes on a white board: "This is Day 525". The room behind the board used to contain the hotel swimming pool, but since 16 May 1996 it has housed the longest planning inquiry in UK history - that into the plans of the British Airports Authority (BAA) to build a fifth terminal at Britain's largest airport.

Yesterday the inquiry, launched by the last Conservative government, drew to an end. It has lasted nearly half as long again as the previous record-breaker, the inquiry into Sizewell B (which lasted 340 days). BAA - like its opponents - has been obliged to set up office in hotel rooms overlooking a runway. "I enjoyed it for the first few years," says BAA's principal opponent, Hillingdon Borough Council's in-house planning lawyer, Craig Pile, apparently without irony. "But we stopped staring at the planes a long time ago."

Over the last four years, more than 800 witnesses have given evidence to the inspector, Roy Vandermeer QC. Together with the lawyers, they contributed to a grand total of 35 million words on the court transcript. And 25,000 people have sent in their written opinions. The most telling moments, says Pile, have been evening sessions for the public. "The sincerity that comes across is really striking. People have genuinely been woken up at four in the morning; their lives have been made very, very bad. People around here," he insists, "are predominantly against expanding the airport, whatever BAA may say."

But aviation is growing. Last year, 1.5 billion people around the world flew on scheduled flights, 50 per cent more than in 1987 - and numbers are expected to rise by 5 per cent a year for the next 20 years. Heathrow accounted for 60 million passengers through its existing four terminals, compared with 51 million in 1994. With a fifth terminal, say the opponents, the



An artist's impression of the proposed fifth terminal at Heathrow; it would constitute Europe's third biggest airport

number is likely to top 100 million. For the site of the proposed new terminal, BAA has selected a former sewage farm. But Friends of the Earth argues that this is an important habitat for wintering birds, and a vital buffer zone for nearby communities. FoE also claims that peripheral changes, such as the expansion of road networks, will have a substantial adverse impact. Heathrow Airport was built on high-quality farmland during the Second World War using wartime regulations to avoid public examinations of the plan. Since 1947, the four terminals, two runways, car-parking, freight and service areas have expanded to cover nearly 3,000 acres. There is enough Tarmac, according to Friends of the Earth, to build 200 miles of three-lane motorway. The noise severely disturbs some half a million people; and the planes - coming in over London - disturb many more. The fifth terminal, if it goes ahead, would itself constitute the third largest airport in Europe.

Before the 1997 general election, John Prescott condemned the plan: "There will ultimately be more flights over the most congested airway in Europe," he said, "at great cost to the environment and to congestion around the airport."

The inspector who passed the plans for the fourth terminal, Ian Glidwell QC, affirmed that it should be the last. The firmly pro-business Tory minister Norman (now Lord) Tebbit once told the House of Commons: "the proposed fifth terminal

meet the expense of the inquiry - effectively offering a public subsidy. No such funding was offered to the objectors, despite requests. Initially, 13 local authorities in West London and the Thames Valley formally opposed BAA. But all of them, except for Hillingdon - the statutory planning authority for Heathrow - pulled out a year ago, because of a lack of funds. Other

objectors, such as Friends of the Earth, pulled out for similar reasons, with some returning last month to make final submissions. So for the last year, just two lawyers have represented the substantial opposition to BAA. One is Mr Pile, the other a junior barrister - David Smith. By comparison, BAA has had two silks, Lord Silsoe QC and Guy Roots QC, and two junior barristers, plus a team from

the City solicitors Cameron McKenna, housed in a suite of 25 hotel rooms. Hillingdon has just two rooms. With an annual budget of around £450,000, Mr Pile and Mr Smith have been sorely constrained. They have had to request several adjournments. "There is so much to do," says Mr Pile. "We will be preparing evidence on one topic, such as noise pollution, and at the same time, David is [in the tribunal] covering another topic altogether. And then there is all the correspondence."

In such circumstances, it is hard to see that Hillingdon can win. But even if that happens, many observers suspect that the Government may allow the fifth terminal to go ahead. "People have genuinely been woken up at 4am; their lives have been made very, very bad" should not go ahead." And before it was privatised in 1986, even BAA opposed a fifth terminal. But times have changed. Now BAA wants the extra capacity and has invested vast resources in this inquiry. The objectors can only afford a small fraction of the same expenditure. According to *Private Eye*, the government regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority, allowed BAA to raise its landing charges by 250m in order to

CV

CHRIS MOTTERSHEAD,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AIRTOURS



Chris Mottershead, 40, is managing director of Airtours holidays. Airtours holidays takes more than 3 million customers on holiday every year and has a turnover in excess of £1bn. It is part of Airtours plc which carries more than 8.6 million people and is the world's largest holiday company.

"I DEFINITELY wasn't an intellectual at school. I got sufficient O-levels and A-levels to secure a place at university, but playing sports and making friends was more of a priority for me at that time."

Even by the time I was at Warwick University, I didn't have clear ambitions. I studied history because it fascinated me rather than because of any burning desire to become a historian. It was only when I wound up on a graduate placement scheme at what was then Wales Gas that I realised I needed more directly useful qualifications. Concluding that business was for me, I used the company for its training in accountancy. Accountancy was something that I felt I could fall back on, and I was sure it would open some doors.

Even before I'd received my results, I handed in my notice. I moved into smaller businesses, starting with a printing firm where I worked in the business forms division. Because that wasn't so big, it was possible to learn so much more about how the company was run. You lack the security of a large corporation, but everything you do and say in a small company has a major impact. You're closer to its heart and so you have a far greater understanding about what makes it tick. Within six months, I was promoted to running the whole accounting department.

It was then that I had my first experience of being treated differently because of

status. There was this strong attitude within the firm of "management versus the workers", and so as soon as I became "one of them", people stopped talking to me. I learnt that anyone working in management needs to work hard at breaking down any barriers that are created because of titles. By the late Eighties, I'd worked in a couple of other companies in senior positions and finally became finance director at Aspro Travel Ltd. Shortly after I joined, the Gulf war began. Aspro specialised in travel in that area and we really had to struggle to survive. I learnt for the first time that however good you are in the business world, there are external forces that can surprise and threaten you at any time. But the challenge did me an enormous amount of good. After all, if you can manage a business under those kind of circumstances, the good times are easy. Indeed, five years after Aspro was bought by Airtours I became managing director. With hindsight, I wouldn't put my success wholly down to my qualifications or financial understanding, but also to common sense. Sometimes you just need to rely on gut feelings. It's about having business acumen and knowing which levers to pull at what time without having to think about it too much. In all honesty, I think business can work simply. People just over-complicate it.

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THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

NICARAGUA IS the focus of Crossing Continents (11am R4). Isabel Hilton asks why a country that embraced socialism has such a high level of domestic violence. At the Beeb (9.30pm R2) celebrates the career of Ronnie Barker (right) with a collage of clips, from unfunny sketches with Ronnie Corbett to nostalgic-inducing snippets of Porridge and Open All Hours.



DOMINIC CAVENTISH

RADIO 1 (97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 6.00 Steve Lamacq. The Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Punk and Dennis. It's Been a Bad Week. 9.30 At the Beeb: Ronnie Barker. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 The Alan Price Set. 10.30 Richard Allison. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutt.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.00 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. The Munich-based Rosemunde Quartet make their British concert debut in this recital recorded last month at the Bridgewater Hall. Introduced by Paul Allen. String Quartet in F, K168. Shostakovich: String Quartet No 8, Op 110. 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Edward Downes conducts Verdi's intensely dramatic and powerful setting of the Mass for the Dead in a concert given last July at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Nina Raito (soprano), Sally Burgess (mezzo), Dennis O'Neill (tenor), John Tomlinson (bass), Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of Wales/Edward Downes. Verdi: Requiem. 9.00 Postscript. An idiosyncratic history of classical duets and an incidental history of loving, told by dancers and thinkers. 4. 'Sexy Realism'. Romeo and Juliet, dirty dancing.

9.20 Haydn and Bartok. Boris Bernman (piano). Bartok: Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm (Mikrokosmos, Book 6). Haydn: Sonata in E flat, H XVI 52. (R)
10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping introduces a programme of country delights, including a pastoral cantata by Hasse performed by Emma Kirkby (soprano) and London Baroque, and a sonata by the French Baroque composer Michel Blavet performed by Claire Guimond (flute), John Toll (harpsichord) and Charles Medlam (cello).
10.45 Night Waves. Few have written of the experience and morality of reading as powerfully as Alberto Manguel. Born in Buenos Aires and now living in Canada, Manguel is internationally renowned as a translator, anthologist and essayist, with books including the acclaimed 'A History of Reading'. With a new collection of essays published this week in Britain, Alberto Manguel talks to Paul Allen about the nature of books and the place of literature in contemporary culture. Plus a report on tonight's opening of Bolton's 'Metaphors' at the English National Opera.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4 (92.4-94.5MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time. 9.30 Q & A. 9.45 Serial: Letters from My Windmill.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Crossing Continents. See Pick of the Day.
11.30 My Uncle Freddie. (R)
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Open Country.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: East Coast Line (Southbound).
3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444.
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal.
3.30 Carnival Tales.
3.45 The Soap and Tale.
4.00 NEWS: Nice Work.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Dear John. (R)
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.25 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the arts programme.
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson.
8.00 NEWS: What If... Four programmes in which Professor Christopher Andrew and his guests rewrite history by imagining how past events could have been different. 2: 'Alfred the Great'. Alfred the Great's victory over the Vikings at Edington in 878 was a turning point in British history. Among other things it led to the unification of England and the growth of a literate Christian tradition. But what if he had been defeated?
8.30 The Week in Westminster. Steve Richards of the New Statesman takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster.
9.00 NEWS: Leading Edge. From understanding the nature of the cos-

4.30 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.20 The Thursday Match. Coverage of Chelsea's visit to Norway to take on Valerenga in the second leg of the European Cup Winners Cup quarter-final.
9.30 On the Line. In-depth investigation of controversial sporting issues.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Inc 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.
CLASSIC FM (100.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 9.00 Michael Moppin. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 4.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 8.00 Evening Concert. Debussy: Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune. LSO/Geddy Simon. Debussy: Nuages (Nocturnes). Stravinsky: PO/Alain Lombard. Debussy: In a Summer Garden. LSO/Barry Wordsworth. Henri Rabaud: Procession nocturne. Monte Carlo PO/Armin Jordan. Ireland: London Pieces. Eric Parkin (piano). Debussy: Images. CBSO/Simon Rattle/11.00 Alan Martin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.
VERGIN RADIO (102.7-102.9MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Mark Forster. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott and Alan. 7.00 Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Gary Davies. 10.00 Richard Allen. 4.30 - 6.30 Phil Kennedy.
WORLD SERVICE RADIO (93.6-94.1MHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).
TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Boes and Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Christensen and Sally James. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 1.00 Anna Ræburn - Live and Direct. 4.00 Sport Zone. 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray. 8.00 Jackie Mason. 9.00 James Whale. 12.00 Ian Collins.

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THE EIGHT Amber Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournament started on Tuesday at the Metropole Palace Hotel in the casino square in Monaco. Sponsored as always by the Dutch multimillionaire Joop van Oosterom, it will run until 28 March; those with an Internet connection can find daily coverage at <http://www.tase.nl/amber8>. As the name implies, this is no ordinary event but rather follows its own unique format. Each day consists of two games against the same opponent. The first is a normal rapid game at the time limit of 25 minutes plus 10 seconds extra per move; the second, with 25 minutes and 30 seconds extra, is played "blindfold" with the players moussing in their moves on a blank computer screen - a somewhat traumatic variant which can take a lot of getting used to and last year was extremely tough on Matthew Sadler, who scored badly. Sadly he has not been invited this time. Not that anybody would be totally averse to jumping into such a bear pit. The next fortnight should see some splendidly blood-curdling combat as these heavyweights get stuck into each other. Indeed, there was already plenty of action and some big surprises in the first round as Karpos beat Gelfand 2-0 and Predrag Nikolic made the same score against Ivan-chuk, while the score was 1.5-0.5 in Lautner vs Piket, Kramnik vs Topalov and Ljubojevic vs Anand, and the only drawn match was between Shirov and Van Wely. Anand would not normally be your favoured choice of first-round opponent but this time Ljubojevic rose to the occasion. By transpos-

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Ljubomir Ljubojevic
Sicilian Maroczy Bind

1 d4 Nf6	19 b3 Bf7
2 c4 g6	20 exf5 Nxf5
3 Nc3 Bg7	21 Nxf5 gxf5
4 e4 d6	22 Ne4 Qxd2
5 Nf3 c5	23 Rxc8+ Rxc8
6 Be2 c4	24 Rxd2 a6
7 0-0 cxd4	25 Rdf5 e5
8 Nxd4 Nc6	26 Rxb7 f4
9 Be3 Bb7	27 Bb6 Rf8
10 Ne2 Qa5	28 Rb8+ Bb8
11 Qd2 Rf8	29 b4 Kg7
12 f3 Ne5	30 Nd4 Rcl+
13 c5 Ne8	31 Kf2 Bxb4
14 Rfd1 Be5	32 Nf5+ Kg6
15 Nd4 Nc4	33 Nh4+ Kh5
16 Bxc4 Bxc4	34 Nf5? Be1+!
17 cxd6 Nxd6	0-1
18 Rael f5	

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

OMAHA (THE four-card version of Hold'em) is now a favourite game at the Grosvenor Victoria casino in the Edgware Road, London W2. Most nights you can find games running from a £50 buy-in to a £1,000 buy-in in the big game. In the small game the blinds are £1 and £2, with £2 to the next player in line if he wants to call, which is not unusual. I saw one lady who said she had never played the game before (why do people rush in like this?) completely misunderstanding her cards and miraculously won the first pot with a single 10 high. In Omaha the golden rule is that you must either hold the nuts or be drawing to the nuts. Anything less is dangerous - for example, trying to hit a king-high flush. But I have been much impressed by another precept of winning play, which underpins the golden rule. It is to try to play heads-up (two-handed), by knocking out as many other players as possible. Here is an example of strong technique by Dave "Devil Fish" Ulyott, "playing down" in the £100 game for a change. Boris beat before the flop. Dave raised, Spyro called and Boris raised again. Dave had a pretty mediocre hand - Q-10-6-2 but he knew where Boris was

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

JODIE FOSTER IS such a consummate actress that her two Oscars have been won for completely different roles. In *The Silence of the Lambs*, she plays a fiercely ambitious and intelligent FBI agent, while in *The Accused* (10.40pm Sky Premier), by Jonathan Kaplan, she plays the polar opposite, a trailer-park girl who brings an action against a gang of men who raped her in a bar. In this contribution to the "Oscar Winners" season,



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Fly Away Home (1998) (68373). 8.00 Charlotte's Web (1999) (69446). 10.00 It Takes Two (1995) (52787). 12.00 The Directors (1997). 1.00 Fannies Funnies (1999). See Pick of the Day. 2.00 Fly Away Home (1998) (68374). 4.00 Charles and Louise (1994) (70944). 5.30 It Takes Two (1995) (52788). 7.00 The Thin Red Line (1996) (68375). 8.00 Hollywood Buzz (1994) (68376). 9.00 The Thin Red Line (1996) (68377). 10.40 The Accused (1998) (68378). See Pick of the Day. 12.30 Children of a Lesser God (1986) (73918). 2.30 Screeners (1995) (68379). 4.30-6.00 The Directors (1997) (68380).
SKY MOVIE MAX
7.00 Back and the Magic Braclet (1997) (68381). 9.00 And Baby Makes Six (1997) (68382). 11.00 Back and the Magic Braclet (1997) (68383). 1.00 And Baby Makes Six (1997) (68384). 3.00 And Baby Makes Six (1997) (68385). 5.00 The Challenges (1998) (68386). 7.00 Snowboard Academy (1997) (68387). 9.00 Asunder (1998) (68388). 11.00 Mad as Hell - Part 2 (1997) (68389). 12.30 Mother, May I Sleep with Daniel? (1998) (68390). 2.30 Marie: A True Story (1995) (68391). 4.05 Adrenaline: Fear the Rush (1995) (68392). 5.25 - 7.00 The Challenges (1998) (68393).
SKY CINEMA
6.00 Close (1997). 4.00 A Star is Born (1937) (78394). 6.00 From the Terrace (1993) (68395). 8.30 I Married a Monster from Outer Space (1963) (68396). 10.00 Around the World in 80 Days (1963) (68397). 12.30 Sudden Impact (1983) (78398). 2.30 Town on Fire (1957) (223493). 4.05 - 6.00 The Gallant Hours (1962) (68399).
FILMFOUR
6.00 A Face at Midnight (1994) (184548). 7.00 The Day (1973). 8.00 The Day After Tomorrow (1992) (68400). 9.05 In the Company of (1992). 10.00 La Grande Bouffe (1973) (68401). 12.30 Jamon Jamon (1992) (68402). 1.00 Don't Look Now (1973) (68403). 2.40 - 6.00 The Shining (1980) (68404).
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Pac-Hunt: Pacific Adventures (194463). 6.30 The Car Show (194047). 8.00 Hike (194757). 9.00 Wildlife SOS (192102). 10.00 Unarmed Africa (195448). 12.00 Unarmed Africa (195448). 1.00 Discover Mars (195503). 2.00 Science Frontiers (195789). 3.00 Howler Dem (192754). 4.00 Forensic Detective (195403). 5.00 The Great Egyptians (195809). 6.00-8.00 Hike (194748).
SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (1992). 7.30 The Simpsons (19780). 8.00 The Simpsons (19781). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (19702). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (19423). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (19344). 11.00 Gullif (19703). 12.00 Jerry Jones (19537). 1.00 Mad about You (19228). 1.30 Jerry Jones (19538). 2.00 Jerry Jones (19539). 3.00 Jerry Jones (19540). 4.00 Gullif (19704). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1985). 6.00 American Dumbest Criminals (19705). 6.30 Dream Team (19401). 7.00 The Simpsons (19782). 7.30 The Simpsons (19783). 8.00 American Dumbest Criminals (19706). 8.30 World's Wildest TV (19707). 9.00 Friends (19588). 9.30 E R (19215). 10.30 Veronica's Closet (19051). 11.00 Dream Team (19402). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (1986). 12.30 The Connelly (19918). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (192047).
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (194447). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (194448). 8.00 Racing News (19401). 8.30 Athletics (19417). 9.00 Pool (19768). 11.00 Table Tennis (19702). 12.00 Aerobics (19195). 12.30 European Tour Golf Magazine (19593). 1.00 Athletics (19408). 2.00 World Motor Sport (192034). 3.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (19593). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (19449). 6.30 Football League Review (195403). 7.00 What a Weekend (19204). 7.30 Inside the PGA Tour (19583). 8.00 Athletics (19409).
SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (194449). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (194450). 8.00 Trans World Sport (19584). 11.00 Trans World Sport (19585). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (194451). 1.00 Trans World Sport (19586). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (194452). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (194453). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (194454). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (194455). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (194456). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (194457). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (194458). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (194459). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (194460). 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (194461). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (194462). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (194463). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (194464). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (194465). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (194466). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (194467). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (194468). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (194469). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (194470). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (194471). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (194472). 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (194473). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (194474). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (194475). 2.00 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